

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

Brooklyn
Papers
 Publication

Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc., 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn NY 11201. Phone 718-834-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 2005 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 18 pages • Vol. 28, No. 15 BWN • Saturday, April 9, 2005 • FREE

CAST AWAY

City shuns \$1.6 billion in biz for Red Hook piers

The Brooklyn Papers

By Jess Wisloski

A German cargo line that offered to bring the city \$1.6 billion in trade — and with it 400 Brooklyn waterfront jobs — was shunned by economic development officials who refused to commit the Red Hook Container Port to shipping operations through 2009.

According to the port's operator, cargo-unloader American Stevedoring Inc. (ASI), the Bremen, Germany-based cargo company Hamburg Sud was set to ship its wares to Brooklyn but is now looking elsewhere after the city cast doubt as to whether the port would remain open beyond 2007, when ASI's lease expires.

Requesting only a letter from the city Economic Development Corporation assuring them that the port — where ASI is now operating on piers 7 through 10 — would remain active until 2009, officials with the city authority delayed and finally

EXCLUSIVE

refused the commitment, said American Stevedoring CEO Christopher Ward.

"It was the easiest thing they possibly could've done," Ward told The Brooklyn Papers. ASI had no reason to doubt the city would produce the letter, he said, adding that he was "perplexed" as to why it never appeared.

"[Hamburg Sud] didn't ask specifically for an economic benefits package," said Ward, "they simply wanted a letter to be sent to them saying the city was interested in creating a working waterfront for five years. And the city chose not to issue that letter."

Using figures released by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the piers, ASI spokesman Matt Yates told a Jan. 12 City

Council hearing that the Hamburg Sud deal was worth \$1.62 billion, which he said, "includes what the value of the goods is worth, what it yields to the taxpayers, what is resold and what the manufacturing values are worth."

The German company eventually rescinded its offer.

City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Councilman David Yassky, who along with Rep. Jerrold Nadler, want the Port Authority to extend ASI's lease, sent letters to Gov. George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg asking them to reconsider comments made at the council hearing by city EDC Executive Vice President Kate Ascher.

Ascher suggested that the piers north of Piers 12 and 11 — including those now operated by ASI — would be offered to other cruise lines in the near future. Piers 12 and 11 have already been committed to cruise ship use.

The mayor's office did not return calls seeking comment for this article. See **PIERS** on page 2



Nicole Kidman, who will be shooting the film "Fur" with Robert Downey Jr. in Brooklyn's new Steiner Studios in the Navy Yard next month, is pictured at the Venice Film Festival last September.

Angry 'park' opponents to meet at Borough Hall

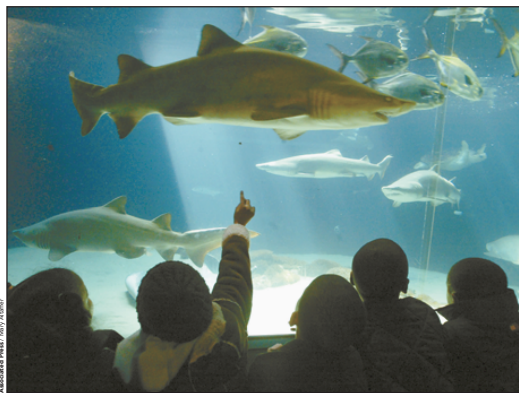
By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Charging that Brooklyn Bridge Park planners have been secretive in their decision-making and unresponsive to neighborhood concerns over the new plan's reliance on housing for necessary revenue generation, a group of neighborhood activists will meet with elected officials later this month to air their concerns.

"We're trying to organize a meeting with all the elected officials," said Murray Adams, president of the Cobble Hill Association. The group is

See **PARK** FOES on page 2



Swimming with sharks

A group of first-grade students from PS 27 in Red Hook visit the shark tank at the New York Aquarium in Coney Island on Tuesday. Brooklynites got a real taste of spring this week, as sunshine, blue skies and warmer temperatures covered the area.

BLOWIN' SMOKE

New 'chimineas' causing a stink

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Confined for more than a decade to America's great wide open, wood-burning outdoor fireplaces, known as "chimineas," are becoming an urban phenomenon that has city officials scratching their heads and apartment dwellers fuming.

Long a fixture in rural settings and suburbia, the fireplaces had failed to flicker in the hearts, minds and backyards of New Yorkers. But when sales of the largely aesthetic clay-and-cast-iron chimineas (chimi-NAY-ahs) flourished elsewhere two years ago, so too did interest from city folks.

Now, as area hearth and gardening retailers, the fiery fad has sparked in Brooklyn, especially in neighborhoods where private homes thrive. And although the phenomenon is only smoldering, officials are trying to balance the

desires of outdoors homeowners with the health concerns of their apartment-dwelling neighbors, who say they are inundated by an inevitable byproduct of the ovens — black smoke.

"This thing, I guess it's to heat you up," said Fire Department Assistant Chief Howard Hill. "I don't know how popular they are here, but enough people are starting to get them that we have to deal with the issue."

The problem came to the fore earlier this month, after tenants at an apartment building in Bay Ridge, on 79th Street at Sixth Avenue, began jamming the city's 311 switchboard and the phone lines of Community Board 10 with complaints of black smoke wafting through their windows.

Although residents persisted on the highest levels of the six-story building couldn't pinpoint the origin of the smoke, tenants closer to



Chimineas on 79th Street in Bay Ridge.

Housing was a surprise

NEWS ANALYSIS: p. 15

Hynes foe: Living outside city, staff breaking the law

O'Hara says 33 of 98 ADAs work illegally

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

A complaint has been filed with the city Conflicts of Interest Board charging that 33 prosecutors working for Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes live illegally outside of the city.

In his complaint, John Kennedy O'Hara charged that roughly one-third of the 98 assistant district attorneys employed by Hynes do not meet residency requirements under state law.

The infraction, O'Hara believes, threatens to clog the courts



Charles Hynes



John O'Hara

with hundreds of appeals from convicted criminals who were prosecuted by the out-of-city ADAs. O'Hara ran unsuccessful primary campaigns for Assembly and City Council against Democratic Party-supported candidates in the late 1980s and '90s before Hynes tried him for voter fraud for registering to vote and voting from a temporary address.

"This is chaos in the courthouse," said O'Hara of his allegation regarding the ADAs. He is working as an unpaid volunteer for Sandra Roper, a lawyer who is challenging Hynes in the primary

See **HYNES** on page 17

\$24M arena jackpot

Developer sells out to Ratner

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Opponents of Bruce Ratner's basketball arena and high-rise plan were left singing "Heartbreak Hotel" this week as a competing developer sold his interest in the Prospect Heights site to the Atlantic Yards developer.

Shaya Boymelgreen, who had been moving forward recently with plans to develop a hotel that would have potentially thrown a monkey-wrench into Ratner's plan, abruptly agreed last Thursday to sell his properties at 800

Pacific St. and 546 Vanderbilt Ave. to Ratner for \$44 million. Boymelgreen had purchased the property in August for \$20 million.

The properties, one a former Pecters Bakery plant, fell within the footprint of Ratner's plans for a massive residential, commercial and sports development, which the city and state have agreed to help finance with \$100 million each for development costs.

See **JACKPOT** on page 6

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PIERS LOSE \$1.6 BILLION DEAL...

Continued from page 1

"Even if you believe the cruise ship business is going to sweep the Brooklyn waterfront, to not secure 400 jobs that are promising immediate payment for five years — given how long it takes for the large-scale projects to get built anyway — why give up that which you know is valuable and interested in coming when you're not sure what's going to happen or that you even know what's coming?" said Ward, who took ASI's reins last October, resigning as Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Environmental Protection commissioner.

ASI officials have reiterated their position that both the shipping operations and cruise lines can coexist and complement each other on the waterfront, a position that Yassky has echoed in statements to

both the City Council and EDC.

A March 21 article in Crain's New York Business announced that Hamburg Sud had signed a deal to dock in Bayonne, N.J., and create 75 to 100 jobs there. But an EDC spokeswoman said this week that she understood the German shipping company was going to set up operations at Howland Hook, a container port on Staten Island.

Spokeswoman Janet Patterson praised Hamburg Sud's decision to dock on Staten Island, saying, "I understand Hamburg Sud is going to Howland Hook, the New York Container Terminal in Staten Island, and we're very happy they're going to stay in the city."

Inquiries to Hamburg Sud were not returned by press time, but a source close to the



Chris Ward, CEO of American Stevedoring.

negotiations said the company had settled on New Jersey, not Staten Island.

Asked about the city's refusal to commit the Brooklyn piers to shipping operations for an additional two years, Patterson said, "I can't comment on that."

She added that agreements had been signed with an auto-processing company and a recycling plant for the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, which together, she said, "will create more than 700 new full-time jobs and more than 600 construction jobs for New York."

When asked if the EDC concerned itself with maintaining the operations that exist on the container ports of the waterfront, and the 500 jobs estimated by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce in

earlier testimonies to already be there, Patterson said, "We're doing a lot of work on the Brooklyn waterfront. That's all I can say."

Sources told The Brooklyn Papers that as soon as Monday elected officials would attempt to secure an agreement with the EDC or the Port Authority to secure either a signed understanding or extended lease committing to preserve the container port for active maritime uses until 2009.

Ward, who worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey before he headed the Department of Environmental Protection, emphasized that while shipping in the city wasn't going away, Brooklyn's hand in it just might disappear.

"You could have a vibrant container port over the next five years. Instead you risk putting piers 7 through 10 at risk to go dark, and to have in their place nothing but blank space," he said.

The Hamburg Sud account, which would have brought 60,000 truck-size shipping containers into the Brooklyn port each year, would have also taken 100,000 truck trips off of the street for deliveries, according to calculations of container shipment values issued by the Port Authority in January and figures provided by ASI's Yates.

What that loss means, Ward said, is product prices rise for New Yorkers.

Asked about the city's throwing away Brooklyn port business and jobs, Borough President Marty Markowitz, an avid supporter of bringing jobs to Brooklyn and a champion of bringing the cruise ship industry to Red Hook, affirmed, "Brooklyn is always open for business and always looking for new opportunities to create jobs."

But Markowitz spokeswoman Jocelyn Aframe said the office was "unfamiliar with the details of the project."

Rep. Nadler, on the other hand, said he was committed to keeping the ports open.

"It makes no sense to close the one remaining port operation on the east side of the river in Brooklyn," he said this week. Nadler added that he would fight "tooth and nail to ensure that the container port operation remains in Brooklyn."

'PARK' FOES...

Continued from page 1

one of several civic groups that has voiced concern to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) — the state entity charged with planning and building the 1.3-mile waterfront site — about the size and scope of the newly added housing.

In December, the BBPDC unveiled to the media and select community members plans to build high-rise luxury condominiums near Pier 6, at the southern end of the park, and just past the Manhattan Bridge at the park's northern edge. One building, on the uplands of Pier 6 near Atlantic Avenue, would rise more than 30 stories.

The group of advocates and civic leaders, who are opposed to the park housing, the process by which it was conceived and the way information about it has been disseminated to the public, will hold an invite-only meeting at Borough Hall on Friday, April 22.

Borough President Marty Markowitz has agreed to host the meeting, said Cobble Hill activist Roy Sloane, and send out the invitations to both community members selected by the group and elected officials including Councilman David Yassky, state Sen. Martin Comor, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Congress members Nydia Velázquez, Major Owens and Ed Towns.

The Cobble Hill Association will draw up the invite list. Sloane said BBPDC officials would not be invited.

[The next public meeting hosted by the BBPDC is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, from 1 pm to 4 pm at Long Island College Hospital, 339 Hicks St. at Atlantic

Avenue. The topics will include recreational uses and landscape design.]

"The idea is to alert everybody that this plan is really out of balance," said Adams. "The interests of the very closely affected people have been put paramount to the interests of the people at large."

By "very closely affected," Adams said he specifically meant Brooklyn Heights and parts of Fulton Ferry Landing.

"While the interests of the Brooklyn Heights people are of peace and quiet, a few people have been put paramount to the public's ability to get to the park," Adams said. "Every single entrance is more or less blocked by private housing," which at the southern end, closest to Cobble Hill, would include a 30-story condominium tower with 300 units, and a 12-story, squat tower with 150 units.

Adams believes an outsider wouldn't even bother with a park visit "since everything of public interest has been removed from the plan, except grass and paths and a couple of parking lots. There's nothing there to do anymore except walk. There's no skating rink, there's no indoor facilities."

Although the meeting will be closed to the general public, Sloane, a member of both the Cobble Hill Association and the Citizens Advisory Committee to the BBPDC, told The Brooklyn Papers, "Anything we we'll not trot out to you immediately afterwards."

Sloane said the group had garnered the support of former leaders involved in the park's inception, including some of the 15 board members of the BBPDC-precursor Brooklyn Bridge Park Local Development Corporation, the Brooklyn Bridge Park

Coalition (now the Conservancy), members of the CAC, and members of groups representing Atlantic Avenue, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and the Columbia Street Waterfront District.

"It was sort of an informal group of civic leaders who are unhappy with the plan," said Sloane, who once worked for the BBPDC. "We're working on developing some sort of a critical document that a group can sign on to, and we're trying to put it into principles."

Adams said the genesis of the group's formation was a collective displeasure at the job being done by the BBPDC at including the community in a meaningful dialogue.

"We've tried to reach out where we can, but frankly, there's been very little public interest in this because it's been very little publicized. The [BBPDC] has shown not the slightest interest in taking any suggestions. They present their plan, and questions are asked and answers given and nothing has ever changed and nothing appears to ever change. They've just locked into this plan."

The public meeting on the plan was publicized by a faxed press release sent to newspapers two days prior to the meeting and by an announcement made at the first town hall meeting. As reported by The Brooklyn Papers on March 11, only 13 community members showed up. The meeting was held at a school in Fort Greene.

"We're getting a little discouraged at these public meetings because they don't do any good if you're not listened to. Why bother?" said Adams.

Sloane expressed a positive outlook.

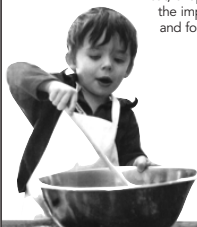
"[The BBPDC] keeps saying there's nothing else that can be done, so we think, to some degree, it would make sense to put something on the table that will say, well, here's something," said Sloane.

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Bank heist nets just \$195

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A bank robber held up a teller at the HSBC bank on Ninth Street near Fifth Avenue, but made off with just \$195 on March 31.

Police say that at 1:30 pm, the man, described as about 30, 5-foot-8 and 200 pounds, handed the teller a note demanding that she turn over all of the money in her drawer.

After she handed it over, the robber fled from the bank and headed north on Ninth Street with his meager, but nevertheless ill-gotten gains.

Bounced, they slash
Two troublemakers being escorted out of a Fifth Avenue sports bar turned on the bouncer and slashed him with razor blades on April 2.

According to police, the victim was trying to get the two men outside at 3:30 am when one of the men, described as a white male, about 5-foot-8 and 200 pounds with brown work boots and a blue jacket, turned on him outside of the bar.

"Don't touch me," he said. "You can be touched." The hands-off rowdy then took out a razor blade, according to the victim and a witness, and slashed the victim on his right cheek, causing a small cut.

The second man also pulled out a blade, and cut the bouncer on the back of the neck. He was described as a light-skinned Hispanic man with a blue baseball cap, about 5-foot-6 and 180 pounds, last seen driving a dark-red SUV.

Both men fled in the SUV, which had Georgia license plates, headed westbound on Union Street.

POLICE BLOTTER

Nab teen punks

Cops arrested three teenage suspects in the April 2 gunpoint mugging of a man on President Street.

The victim told police he was walking towards his President Street apartment between Sixth and Seventh avenues at 9:09 pm when the three stogies suddenly attacked him, coming from the direction of Sixth Avenue.

The first teen, 17, flashed a silver handgun, then put it back in his pocket, and said, "How much money you got? Give me all your money."

The man handed over his wallet, which was later recovered, and the three fled. Upon returning home, the victim called police, and descriptions of the three went out to police in the area.

The young men were picked up the next day.

The victim identified the three suspects, two of them 17 and the other 18, from a lineup. All three were charged with robbery and assault.

Special delivery

A gun-toting bandit robbed a deliveryman's van on April 2 as he unloaded a shipment on 11th Street.

The victim, 27, told police he had the vehicle parked between Fifth and Sixth avenues when the robber climbed inside at some point during the delivery. When the victim returned to the vehicle, the stranger displayed a black handgun, and told the victim to hand over his loot.

"Give me all your money" said the mugger, who wore a black stocking cap.

Obliging him, the victim turned over \$700 in cash to the stranger, who fled eastbound on foot on 11th Street, and then made a left on Sixth Avenue.

Tackle woman

Three young thugs tackled a woman to the ground in broad daylight on March 29 so they could rob her of a whopping \$8.

The victim, 53, told police she was walking across the corner of President Street and Eighth Avenue in Park Slope at 4:12 pm.

Suddenly a man pushed her to the ground, with his hand over her mouth. "I just want your money," said the young man, who reached into the victim's pockets to take her money.

Well-read burglar

A luckless lock-picker was plucked off the streets of Park Slope after attempting to break into four different apartments on April 3.

The would-be thief did manage to get into an apartment building on Eighth Avenue near Berkeley Place using nail clippers, but had no success making off with any personal property from apartments.

The man, 29, was picked up by police as he apparently tried to break into another property on Berkeley Place.

One of his would-be victims, 65, called police after he heard the stranger fiddling with the doorknob of his Eighth Avenue apartment, and heard the man pushing against his garden-level door at 3:40 am.

When the stranger couldn't get in, he

went upstairs and tried to enter the other apartments, to no avail.

Then he came back downstairs, a witness said, and from the first floor went through several mailboxes, and took some pieces of mail, including a Star magazine and a copy of The Brooklyn Paper.

After leaving the building, he apparently tried to break into a first-floor apartment through the window, but then left when he noticed movement inside the apartment.

Police Officer Nelson Fernandez, of the 78th Precinct, arrested the man at 4 am, and charged him with burglary in the third degree and criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree, for possession of the magazine and newspaper.

Shower power

After cleaning himself off for work a Gowanus man discovered a burglar attempting to clean him out.

The victim, 36, told police he was showering at 7 am on March 31 when the thief apparently broke in through a window near the fire escape of his apartment on St. Mark's Place between Third and Fourth avenues. The burglar, meanwhile, had enough time — through the shower and shave cycle — to rob the victim's cellular phone, digital camera, handheld computer device, iPod and laptop computer, totaling \$2,000 in property.

When the victim left the bathroom he was startled to find a stranger standing inside his apartment.

"Don't move!" shouted the burglar, 31, who then ran out of the apartment.

The victim immediately called police, who found the thief a few blocks away

See COPS on page 8

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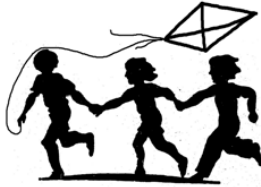
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Ages: 3 to 5-1/2
June 27 - Aug. 19
Full Day (9 am - 3 pm) and Half Day (9 am - 12:30 pm)
Activities: swimming, weekly trip for 4- and 5-year-olds

• **Elementary Division**
Ages: entering 1st - 4th grades
July 5 - Aug. 19
Full day (9 am - 5 pm)
Extended hours (8 am - 6 pm) available

Activities: swimming (instructional and recreational), arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, trips 2 days per week

• **'Movin' On Travel Camp**
Ages: entering 5th - 9th grades
July 5 - Aug. 19
Full day (9 am - 5 pm)
Activities: Daily trips, swimming, two overnights

• **Park Slope Day Camp**
Locations in Windsor Terrace and Park Slope
(718) 768-4426
www.parkslopedaycamp.com
e-mail: office@parkslopedaycamp.com

Director: Ronny Schneider
Ages: entering K - 8th grades
July 5 - Sept. 8
Full day (9 am - 5 pm), early dismissal optional for young kids; Extended hours (until 6:30 pm) available

Transportation: free morning shuttle from all Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods and Bay Ridge

Activities: outdoor camp with sports, trips, gymnastics, drama, nature, olympics, sports academy, travel camp (floating overnight trips)
OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, April 17

YMCA camps
Park Slope & Bensonhurst
(718) 768-1000, ext. 153
email: children@ymcany.org
Ages: 5 - 15 years
Full day (8 am - 4 pm)
Extended hours (4 pm - 6 pm) available
Activities: visiting Prospect

Park Slope & Bensonhurst
(718) 768-1000, ext. 153
email: children@ymcany.org
Ages: 5 - 15 years
Full day (8 am - 4 pm)
Extended hours (4 pm - 6 pm) available
Activities: visiting Prospect

Park Slope & Bensonhurst
(718) 768-1000, ext. 153
email: children@ymcany.org
Ages: 5 - 15 years
Full day (8 am - 4 pm)
Extended hours (4 pm - 6 pm) available
Activities: visiting Prospect

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email: children@ymcany.org
Ages: 5 - 15 years
Full day (8 am - 4 pm)
Extended hours (4 pm - 6 pm) available
Activities: visiting Prospect

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Michael Asher Geller. My present name is Asher Moshe Geller. My present address is 881 Sterling Place, 42R, Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is July 20, 1985.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 22nd day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Michael Asher Geller. My present name is Asher Moshe Geller. My present address is 881 Sterling Place, 42R, Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is July 20, 1985.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 14th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Jamie Shanon Harris. My present name is Jamie Shanon Harris. My present address is 383 Dumont Avenue, 42L, Brooklyn, New York 11212. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is December 18, 1979.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 14th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Esther Rose Geller. My present name is Esther Rose Geller. My present address is 1927 Bergen Street, 42C, Brooklyn, NY 11224. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is August 19, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 31st day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Leo Haimel Harris. My present name is Leo Haimel Harris. My present address is 1819 Tappan Avenue, 41, Bronx, NY 10457. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is September 22, 1961.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 1st day of April, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0002028105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of Terry Lucina Paschea Howard. My present name is Terry Lucina Paschea Howard. My present address is 80 Ralston, 42C, Brooklyn, NY 11221. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is May 1, 1964.

Park's many places of interest, trips to theater performance, swimming.

Park Slope-PS 321
July 5 - Aug 26
Also ask about the progressive swim camp (instructional swim 4 days per week)

Bensonhurst-PS 200 & 205
July 5 - Aug 12
Ages 13-17
Also ask about the Teen Leadership Camp (geared towards community service and cool trips like Madame Toussaud's Wax Museum, BBQs, Sailing and more)

Kim's Kids Summer Camp
Park Slope location
(718) 768-6419
Director: Dan Moineister
Ages: 5-12 to 11-1/2 years
Activities: swimming in lakes, pools and beaches, hikes, trips to Sesame Place, amusement parks, museums.

Better Brooklyn Community Ctr
408 Jay St., 5th floor
(718) 624-1902 • Ages: 2-15
July 5 - Aug. 26
Fees: \$1000 for full summer or \$250 per 2-week session
Full day: 8 am to 6:30 pm
Activities include: dance, music, arts & crafts, lunch & snacks, swimming in indoor pool, bowling, weekly trips, gymnastics, team sports, rock-climbing, horseback riding, mathematics, writing, reading, library visits.

Park Explorers
611 Eighth Avenue, Park Slope
(718) 788-3620
Director: Chris Altman
www.parkexplorers.com
Ages: 4 to 14
June 29 - Sept. 2
Full day: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Extended hours 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Activities: weekly sessions focus on outdoor play in Prospect Park, sports, arts & crafts, swimming (pool and beach), trips in NYC, theatre arts, gymnastics, soccer

L.E.S. Summer Camp

440 Ovington Ave., Bay Ridge
(718) 748-3624
Director: Victoria Hofmo
Ages: 4-14
June 20 - Aug. 12
Full day: 8 am - 4 pm
Extended day until 6:30 pm (pre-school ages 4 am - noon)
Activities: fencing, tennis, swimming, art, cooking, environmental science projects, three trips per week, sports.

Garden Summer Program

33-16 79th Street, Jackson Hts
(718) 335-6363
Director: Mary Maisano
Ages: 2-6
Bus available, door to door, both ways
June 27 - Aug. 19
9 am - 4 pm
Extended day: 7:30 am - 6 pm

Activities: Five sections: fine arts, academics, sports, theater arts or teen travel. In-ground swimming pool on premises. Fully air conditioned.

Berkeley Carroll Creative Arts Program

181 Lincoln Place, Park Slope
(718) 534-6540
www.berkeleycarroll.org
Director: Marlene Clary
Ages: 8 to 14
June 30 to July 29
Full day: 9 am - 4 pm
Extended hours: 8 am - 6 pm
Activities: music, dance, theatre arts, ceramics, media and graphic arts, all in air conditioned classrooms, daily noon-time performances, plus performances and exhibitions at the end of camp. Swimming.

Poly Prep Summer

9216 Seventh Ave., Bay Ridge
(718) 836-9800, ext. 322
www.polyprep.org
Director: Mike Junch
Bus available (extra fee)
• **Summer Experience**

Ages: pre-K-grade 7
July 5-Aug. 12
Full day: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Activities: arts, dance, sports on our 25-acre grounds, swimming and special events.

• **Performing Arts**
Ages: grades 3-8
July 5-Aug. 5
Full day: 8:30-3:30
Activities include: professional faculty guide young actors, dancers, singers and musicians. Culminates in a musical theater production.

• **Science Institute**
Ages: grades 5-8
One and two week sessions
Full day: check 9-3
Activities: exploration of robotic design, gross anatomy, ecology in the digital age, solar energy, and the Mars Rover.

• **Summer Academic Program**
Ages: grades 3-12
July 11-Aug. 5
Full day: 9 am - 3pm
Activities: enrichment and remedial courses. Can be combined with Day Camp.

• **Computer Camp**
Ages: 5-12
Two week sessions in June & late August.

Full day: 9 am - 3pm
Activities include: exploration of new technology, creating web sites, digital imaging and photography software.

• **Sports Experience**
Ages: 6-16
One week sessions
Full day: 9 am - 3pm
Activities: each week focus on a different sport (soccer, squash, basketball, and baseball)

• **Jewish Sports Academy**
215 Pacific Street
(718) 596-4840, ext. 15
Director: Simcha Weinstein
jewishrevolution@aol.com
Ages: 5 to 9 years
June 27-Aug. 12
Full day: 9 am - 3 pm
Extended hours: 8am-6pm
Fee: \$425 per 2-week session
Activities: supervised, instructional swim, soccer and tennis, arts & crafts, boating, computers, dramatics, farm animal care, pony riding, karate, ballet, multimedia, trips, gymnastics, hiking, hockey, Jewish culture, music & dance, physical fitness, ping pong, swimming, tennis. Campers will enjoy the St. Francis College gym and Olympic-sized swimming pool.

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Our popular pre-nursery program for your toddler, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

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A camp where kids can get on base or play the violin, do the swim or go for a jog, weave a tale or weave a basket, put on a play or play some tennis, a picture or take a picture, hit a home run or have a ball.

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MAY 2 & 19
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Call for location information

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS
JEWISH SPORTS ACADEMY

Ages: 5-9 June 27th - August 12th

At: The Hannah Senesh School • 215 Pacific St.

Specialists in Supervised & Instructional:
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Delicious & Nutritious Lunch Provided

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Session 3: July 25th - Aug 5th, Session 4 (1 week only): Aug 8th - 12th

HOURS: 9am-5pm, Cost \$425 per session, Extended Session 5am-5pm, Extra \$300 per session

Contact: Simcha (718) 596-4840 Ext. 15 • Jewishrevolution@aol.com

Checks made payable to Camp Gan Israel, 117 Ramen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Administration fee of \$100 per child. Camp is closed July 4th.

10% discount early bird registration before April 1st

NATURE ORIENTED, Physically Active Day Camp

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Daily Trips to:

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Early drop-off and late pick up available
Ages 5½ to 11½ years

Call DAN MOINSTER
Park Slope • 768-6419

The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

Resting right

Q: My son, almost 4, has battled going to bed for several months. Then in the morning he complains he's tired, and it's a constant battle to get him ready. His bedtime is 8 pm to 8:30 pm. — a reader

A: This child is confused — so exhausted that he's overwhelmed. The solution is more sleep.

But how?

When the Michells shifted their son's bedtime from 7:30 pm to 7 pm, they had no idea how much difference the change would make. No more stalling tactics, no more crying, no more meltdowns.

"It turns out that putting him to bed 30 minutes earlier probably results in about one and a half to two hours more sleep a night because he doesn't fight it," says Mary Alice Mitchell, mother of Grady, who turned 4 in March. "The difference is night and day."

After Grady first went to sleep within minutes under the new routine, his mom and dad asked each other, "Is this really happening?"

To catch Grady before he's too tired to cope, they say they'll practically jump through hoops to start the bedtime routine at 6:30 pm and get their son to bed at 7 pm on the dot.

"We had tried all the parenting techniques, but no matter what we did, he would lose it during the bedtime routine," Mary Alice says. "It was frustrating for all of us, and it played out into the next day."

Grady's preschool teachers noticed he often complained of tiredness. At circle time, he wanted to sprawl out and put his head down. He was impulsive and easily overstimulated. Now that he gets 12 hours of sleep a night, he more calmly flows through a fun school day and the afternoons at home.

Her son also is more easygoing while getting ready for preschool, Mary Alice says. Grady no longer insists on wearing one style of pants, nor does he flip out if his favorite outfits are in the laundry.

The impact of insufficient sleep on children and adolescents can be highly significant, but is often overlooked or misunderstood, sleep experts say. Some kids can appear to have problems such as hyperactivity, impulsiveness, inability to focus or a depressed mood, but really they are sleep-deprived.

When a child isn't getting enough rest, it's actually harder for him to relax and fall asleep, and to sleep through the night. Late-night activity fueled by adrenaline gives a child a second wind, and can fool his caregivers into thinking he's just not tired.

Among kids ages 1 to 5, sleep-related behavior is one of the most common problems brought to pediatricians. The Michells were so frustrated with their son's bedtime struggles that they turned to a psychologist.

An earlier bedtime is one part of the psychologist's "prescribed" foundation for the boy's improved emotional stability. His parents also strive to assure their son has plenty of physical activity, and give him some focused attention each day where Grady leads their time together. Also, no sugar or caffeine after about 2 pm.

Reader Alison Loris, a grandmother of four children from baby to age 7, agrees that a non-negotiable, earlier routine helps kids wind down.

"If the Raleigh mother can start earlier, she should," Loris says. "I recommend an early supper, followed by a playful bath time, cuddling, followed by stories and/or songs, then a firm and loving goodnight, and the parent's exit. Leave a night light on and close the door most of the way."

For some kids, sleep solutions are simple. For example, one mother gave each of her four children a short strand of blue Christmas lights at night

Parent-to-Parent



By Betty Flieger

to chase away shadows. But many parents, like the Michells, have had to work much harder to get their children on track.

Then there's the wake-up call. Before your child can tell time, he can learn to do "everything by numbers," a

Virginia mother suggests: "Bedtime at 9, naps until 3, and don't wake Daddy until there's an 8 on the clock on weekends."

Can you help?

You recently wrote a column about a 7-year-old boy with poor social skills. I know you cannot diagnose a child in the column, but symptoms his mother described — impulsive, immature, disruptive — also fit Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and a high-functioning form of autism called Asperger's Syndrome. My daughter wasn't diagnosed with either until she was 9, and I wish someone had steered me in that direction earlier. Please tell parents how to get started earlier if they suspect their child truly is facing a challenge that falls outside the norm. — a mother

If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092.

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Harold

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- Variety of programs for campers age 4½ to 14
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- Very flexible registration; accommodating 10 week season
- Free morning transportation from most Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods
- Established 1992

Spring Mini-Camp
April 25-29, 2005
5 days of trips & activities based in Park Slope

Open House for Summer Camp
Sunday, April 17, 2005
Presentations at noon and 1pm
339 S. St. just below 6 Ave.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Beginner Wednesday | 6:30-7:45 pm |
| Sat | 2:30-3:45 pm |
| 8:30 Bridge St. West St. | 8:30-9:30 am |
| Beginner Thurs | 4:00-5:15 pm |
| Sun | 8:30-10:30 am 10:30-11:45 am |

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'Scratch 'n' Stiff' rallies led by Barron in B' Hill

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

While residents of all five boroughs were affected by the Daily News scratch-off lottery game screw-up, where readers with presumably winning prize tickets were told they had won nothing because a wrong number was printed in the newspaper, some Brooklynites are still hurting bad.

And Councilman Charles Barron, who has rallied behind the game players, says there's a reason that so much of the disappointment is concentrated in certain areas. "Most of the people who were hurt by this are black and Latino," he said at a meeting with those who claim to have been ripped off by the News, at the House of the Lord Church in Boerum Hill on March 14.

"Every winner I've seen thought they had a break, and all they had was their dreams dashed by a newspaper that was cold-hearted," charged the East New York councilman. At least 150 of those who

won the weekly "Scratch 'n' Match" lottery offered in the Daily News were still sore enough a week after the March 20 apology by the newspaper, to show up at the meeting at the Atlantic Avenue church.

The New York Post dubbed the scandal "Scratch 'n' Stiff."

Most of the turnout was from Brooklyn, said Barron, who has since led two other meetings at the church, which is near Nevins Street.

Barron said the meeting resulted in the creation of organizing groups that will work to arrange protests, advertising and delivery boycotts, as well as Daily News picket lines. But what they ultimately want to achieve, said Barron, is a negotiation with the News for compensation.

"People were wronged, and the Daily News should correct that," said Barron, a former Black Panther, who has led protests in front of the Daily News' midtown offices. A larger protest is planned for April 13.

He said the group ultimately might seek to file a class-action lawsuit, but only if the



Charles Barron

News continued to refuse to pay up.

Irene Murphy, a spokeswoman for the Daily News, explained that the newspaper had offered compensation.

"We've already brought \$1 million for the special lottery drawing," which will be administered for those who held the tickets with the misprinted winning number.

The Daily News will hand out five \$100,000 prizes, five \$10,000 awards and 12,790 other cash payouts, she said.

Murphy blamed the error

on the lottery's administrator, D.L. Blair, of Garden City, which had issued the "misprint" that was printed by the Daily News.

No spokesperson for D.L. Blair, "an independent judging organization," was available for comment by press time.

Murphy said that the News' actions in offering the additional \$1 million to the prize pool were "above and beyond" what the rules on the back of the ticket required them to do by law in the event of human error.

Still, Barron said there was enough emotional stress endured by the disappointed "winners" that the News could face lawsuits for what he called "gross negligence" and "predatory game-playing" as well as fraud, which he's requested state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer investigate.

Yolanda Jackson, a spokeswoman for Spitzer, said last week "if we have reason to believe there is outright deception, then we would get involved. As of now, we do not have reason to believe that and an investigation is not under way."

Barron said he still hopes to get the News to pay up.

"For them to come up with a million dollars that quickly, you know they must be making megabucks off this game," he said, and suggested the News at least could "work out a payment plan."

David Davis, 32, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, said he hadn't spent what he thought was a jackpot before the News announced the mistake, but said he felt targeted by what he called a "sick, cruel joke."

Too many people from Brooklyn, I'm telling you," Davis said, and pointed out that many of those who thought they had won were in the same situation, financially, at least, as he was. Davis, who works an overnight shift, said he woke up that Friday night and got the paper when it came out. "I decided to do my ticket then, and I won."

The ticket he displayed, showed matching \$100,000 signs on it.

"One number could've changed my life," Davis lamented.

JACKPOT...

Continued from page 1

The two properties were to have been developed by Boymelgreen's Levee-Boymelgreen company, into a large-scale hotel. Both parties agreed to the conditions of the sale on March 31.

The move came as a shock to some residents of Prospect Heights, the neighborhood in which Atlantic Yards would be built using the state's power of eminent domain condemnation of private property. Many anti-arena activists were supportive of Boymelgreen's hotel plans, which they saw as a stumbling block in Rainer's efforts to claim the area is blighted, a condition that could trigger

such condemnation.

"Maybe some people are not going to be happy, but I'm not the one to block a big project that everybody wants to see going on," Boymelgreen told the New York Times for its April 2 edition.

"I'm disappointed," said Pat Hagan, a 26-year resident who co-founded the Prospect Heights Action Coalition with her sister, Schelle Hagan, to oppose the arena plans.

"I thought that he was a different developer who wanted to develop under his own name," Hagan said of Boymelgreen. "Twenty-million dollars was a lot to spend on that land, and I was very hopeful that he was going to do another adaptive reuse like he did for the Daily News building, and keep our neighborhood our neighborhood — Prospect Heights."

"I also guess I thought he really cared about the community," Hagan said.

Forest City Ratner executives say they have made strides to show they do care.

"I don't think it's fair that everybody criticizes Bruce [Ratner] just for coming up with an idea," said Bruce Bender, an executive vice president for Forest City Ratner. Bender pointed out that Rainer "does everything he can to avoid controversy" which is why he was dealing with homeowners one-on-one.

Asked two weeks ago if Boymelgreen's plans to build a hotel at 800 Pacific St. would affect Rainer's ability to use eminent domain and complete the arena project as proposed, Bender thought for a moment, and surveyed the building, which at the time had a massive real estate sign across the roof.

"I hope not," he said during a walking tour of the Atlantic Yards site. "I don't think so. I think Shaya and Bruce have a very good relationship. They're both business people. They both have an investment of the community."

But, he added, "we're going to improve it either way."

Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for the anti-Ratner arena group Develop—Don't Destroy Brooklyn, who lives in a condominium within the footprint of the site, said Boymelgreen's sale of the property to Ratner would not deter the group's mission.

"We still intend to show the public that [Ratner's] got a sweetheart deal from the city and the state," Goldstein said.

"What the sale does go to show is what kind of profit Ratner expects to make."

"Because the value of the land there is worth so much to him," he said, the eminent domain condemnations might also be difficult.

"It also goes to show the MTA should be an open bidding process," said Goldstein, referring to the development rights over more than 10 acres of Metropolitan Transportation Authority rail yards that Ratner needs to purchase in order to build Atlantic Yards.

Hagan said she was disappointed nonetheless.

"My ultimate thought is Shaya Boymelgreen is just another greedy developer after all," she said.

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Zoning race ends with a fix in Ridge

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Only a week after the City Council passed a neighborhood-wide zoning amendment in Bay Ridge, officials say they have pinpointed a handful of locations where developers had tried but failed to beat a March 23 deadline to get their new construction in under the old guidelines.

As a result, say Department of Buildings officials, at least four projects, mostly between Third and Fourth avenues, will be restricted by the new height and bulk limits laid out in the 249-block plan.

Four others, meanwhile, will not be held to the new regulations.

Among at least eight addresses submitted to the Buildings Department by Community Board 10 last week, two projects, at 468 77th St. and 438 67th St. — failed to build foundations in time to move forward under the old regulations, viewed by many as inappropriately lax. Projects at 431 Senator St. and 315 92nd St. also failed to meet the deadline, said a spokeswoman for the Department of Buildings.

"This is normal protocol whenever there's a zoning change," said Buildings Department spokeswoman Ilse Fink, who confirmed the locations. "This is what we do."

Following a unanimous 49-0 vote last week, the City Council passed into law regulations that will preserve the built character of Bay Ridge, in part by designating three times the current number of blocks for detached housing, the neighborhood's pride. The law will also reduce by half the number of blocks where so-called Fekdes-style row houses are allowed.

Fink said that in order to qualify to build under the old zoning regulations, developers needed to complete the foundations by March 23, the date the council passed the law.

Although inspectors will continue to survey the entire neighborhood in the coming weeks, CB10 submitted only eight sites where construction was believed to be fresh.

Councilman Vincent Gentile, who along with CB10 championed the new zoning as an antidote to the often uncharacteristic development that for years had washed over Bay Ridge, said that he would follow up with future inspections.

"I don't plan to be disagreeable just to be disagreeable," said Gentile.

"But if we do in fact disagree I will advocate for the new zoning."

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Of course, Gets and Greenberg carry a full line of designer frames (Christian Dior, Gucci, Prada), children's glasses, sunglasses and contact lenses (including a variety of disposable lenses that can last as long as a week to six months).

But Greenberg believes that what makes his store truly special is the personal attention he and his staff offer.

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Greenberg says that price and selection should be two important factors in choosing an optical store. But even more important is



Manager Max Greenberg and optician Diana Gets at Ninth Street Optical.

the relationship and the communication between staff and customer; all of which Greenberg keeps in sight at his store.

Ninth Street Optical, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, is open Monday through Saturday, from 10:30 am to 7 pm, and accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. For an appointment or more information, call (718) 965-2545.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number: N030242005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Mary Louise Browning aka Mary L. Browning. My present address is: 223 - 13th Street, #3, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is: Cambridge, Mass. My date of birth is: November 30, 1956.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 17th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number: N030242005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: (1) Assume the name of: Michael Anthony Stewart. My present name is: Michael Anthony Stewart. My present address is: 414 Ocean Avenue, #3, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: February 4, 1968. (2) Assume the name of: Che Michael Daniel Stewart. My present address is: 414 Ocean Avenue, #3, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My

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Claim city has it in for 69th Street Ferry

By Jotham Sederstrom
 The Brooklyn Papers

A promised water ferry connection in Bay Ridge, which would be the first such service in the neighborhood in eight years, has been caught in a bureaucratic net and may have to be fished out in city courts, Councilman Vincent Gentile charged last week.

Six months after New York Water Taxi announced that it would extend its service to the 69th Street Pier, in part to reverse flagging ridership, Gentile and Councilman David Yassky, chairman of the waterfront committee, say that \$125,000 allocated for the project is being waylaid by the city Department of Transportation.

The decision to hold back the operating subsidy, said Gentile, is a potential viola-

tion of city law because the allocation was approved as part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's signed budget.

"What has happened is the tyranny of this bureaucracy has decided that they do not want to spend the money on a ferry subsidy, even though it became law when the mayor signed off on it in his budget," said Gentile.

"What authority does the DOT, as an administrative agency, have to supercede the council and the will of the mayor?"

Should the DOT continue to withhold funding, as agency officials have indicated, Gentile said that he would evaluate what legal avenues could be pursued.

"It's become a process issue because they're refusing to carry out a valid law," said Gentile. "We're looking into the possibilities now. We could definitely file a motion to force the agency to follow the rules and spend the money to subsidize the ferry service."

Gentile said that the funding, earmarked for the new dock in Bay Ridge and operating expenses at an existing stop at 58th Street near the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Sunset Park, was snubbed by Brooklyn DOT Commissioner Lori Ardito at a budget hearing last month.

Referring to the same hearing, a spokesman for Yassky said that Ardito cited an internal policy that bars, or at least frowns upon, subsidizing private businesses with public money. If so, the policy would be in direct contrast to funding that the department allotted to a bus line in Queens last year, said a Yassky spokesman.

"The DOT has reiterated that they would not spend that money," said Yassky spokesman Evan Thies. "We're agnostic that they would refuse a directive from their superiors, in this case the council and the mayor. It's really just a tragedy for the people who depend on these services every day."

Kay Sarlin, a spokeswoman for the DOT, denied that the money had been ambushed.

"We proposed making the limited funding available to operators to offset operating and landing permit fees at these sights, however 69th Street Pier is not currently operational."

Officials believe that had the funding not been blocked, the connection in Bay Ridge would have launched early this year, marking the first time ferries docked in the neighborhood since 1997, when sea organisms weakened the pier causing its reconstruction.

A mayoral spokesman did not return calls for comment.

Now, said Tom Fox, president of New York Water Taxi, a new connection in Bay

Ridge, as well as proposed stops in Williamsburg and the Rockaways, have been postponed indefinitely.

He said that all three projects had been designed to boost ridership citywide, which has declined since the business lost federal subsidies two years ago.

"I wouldn't want to say an exact date, but every effort is going to be made to get it up by the end of 2005," said Fox, who acknowledged that connections in Williamsburg and the Rockaways could take precedence.

Established after 9-11, following disruptions to mass transit, service in Sunset Park remained free to riders until the Federal Emergency Management Agency eliminated funding in April 2003. After that, fares rose to \$4 for a one-way trip from the Brooklyn Army Terminal to Pier 11 in Lower Manhattan.

The price hike, coupled with a reduction in the number of ferries, helped slash ridership from 1,400 passengers to about 425 last April, according to Stacey Sherman, a spokeswoman for New York Water Taxi.

"We have to move quickly, because we don't know how long the business can sustain itself as is," said Gentile.

COPS...

Continued from page 3
 and recovered all the stolen property.

Airbags lifted

A thief broke into and robbed the airbags of a 2002 Honda Accord parked overnight on April 3 in Park Slope.

The owner, who is from Michigan, told police she left the vehicle on Second Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues at 2 a.m.

When she returned at 10 a.m., the driver's-side rear window was shattered, and both the driver's- and passenger-side airbags had been removed.

Another thief stole airbags from a green Honda Civic on March 26.

The owner of the vehicle told police he'd left the car at the northwest corner of First Street and Prospect Park West between 8 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. the next day.

When he returned, the passenger-side rear window was smashed, and airbags from the 2004 vehicle were gone.

Just blocks away, a thief stole the airbags from a Honda Civic on March 24. The owner, 30, told police she left her vehicle overnight on Garfield Place between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 9, 2005



Celebrate in style

Bay Ridge store brings a lot to the table for brides and grooms

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Just in time for spring re-decorating, a Michael C. Fina boutique has opened in Bay Ridge. The new store, which is the offspring of the 70-year-old retailer on Fifth Avenue and 45th Street in Manhattan, offers an array of seasonal home decor accents — from an exquisite flower-bedecor picture frame to a silver-plated watering can holding a dove-seeded candle.

But the store is best known as a mecca for brides and grooms. "What's important for us is to be able to explain to the couple that Michael C. Fina can be your resource for everything about the wedding," store Vice President Jeffrey Fina told GO Brooklyn. "From the beginning — from the engagement ring to bridal registry (china, crystal and silverware) to gifts for groomsmen and bridesmaids — to the end: wedding bands. All the parts of the wedding life-cycle are of equal importance to us."

The company was founded by Jeffrey's grandparents Rose and Michael C. Fina in 1935, and now he operates the company with his brother Steven and Michael.

The Manhattan store has already earned a reputation as the go-to place for wedding registries and for bridegrooms looking for engagement rings of exceptional craftsmanship at a competitive price.

Currently, Michael C. Fina is awarding a free, seven-day Caribbean cruise to each customer who buys an engagement ring costing \$5,000 or more, according to Jeffrey. Although the airfare and port taxes are not included, it's a memorable wedding gift for the engaged couple.

"We're all about the celebration," Steven Fina told GO Brooklyn. "From our research, we know this is the most meaningful purchase anyone will ever make and we want to celebrate with them. So go on a cruise and have a good time!"

The 1,800-square-foot Bay Ridge location at 8211 Fifth Ave. was designed by Lydia Yoslow Designs and Consolidated Design Studio. The new retail space, located directly across Fifth Avenue from the Kleinfeld wedding gown boutique, includes light maple, black laminate and glass shelving for a sleek, upscale look. In this setting, a carefully edited selection of jewelry, gifts, china, crystal, sterling silver and more is displayed; it represents a silver of the Manhattan store's jaw-dropping inventory.

Yet the Brooklyn location still has a wide selection of home accents from vases in an artful variety of shapes and colors, in classic and contemporary forms, to crystal candlesticks, to figurines and frames.

Whether the customer is looking for ideas for her own registry, for a gift or to indulge herself, Michael C. Fina is rife with temptation.

During the grand opening week, which begins April 17, the Brooklyn store will distribute a book, that offers discounts or perks from other bridal vendors in the borough, to couples who register or purchase engagement or wedding rings at Michael C. Fina.

"It's an added value that the bride in Brooklyn gets, and it also serves to keep that bride in Brooklyn purchasing everything she needs," said Steven, emphasizing the store's strategic location on Bay Ridge's "Bridal Row." "Not only at Michael C. Fina, but at everybody around Michael C. Fina. We want to work together with the Brooklyn bridal community."

But as Jeffrey pointed out, April 17 is just another day at the Michael C. Fina office. "The associates at our store are heavily trained about the product and service," he explained. "That's our differentiation from our competitors. [Every day], we educate our consumers about the product, how to care for it, how to set a proper table or how to go about creating their own, eclectic table setting."



New beginnings

As we swap winter's heavy drapes, tablecloths and bedding in favor of lightweight, more gaily patterned or brightly-colored fabrics, it's an ideal time to choose a new china pattern or tabletop accessory to make the table an equal part of the home's seasonal transformation.

Michael C. Fina offers china from famed designers Yena Wang and Kate Spade as well as Deruta's meticulously hand-painted pottery. "We are one of the few retailers in the country that offer Deruta or who offer that kind of hand-painted china," said Steven, adding that Michael C. Fina has carried that brand of Italian pottery for over two years now. "If you look, you can see a little bit of differentiation between each piece."

Michael C. Fina carries many china patterns that are truly a breath of fresh spring air. Spode's "Kyushu" table setting, named after one of the islands of Japan, is obviously influenced by that country's affinity with nature. This botanical pattern incorporates a riotous mix of colors — green, orange, slate blue and more — with ginkgo leaves and borders reminiscent of kimono patterns.

For those who prefer a more restrained hand when it comes to color, Spade's "Library Lane Aquil" place setting features bands of watery blue, grass green and twinkling silver for a preppy pattern that's perfect for a lunch-

Fina china: The new Michael C. Fina store in Bay Ridge carries (clockwise from top left) jewelry, carved frames, silver-plated candle holders and a wide variety of china patterns, stoneware, sterling silver and stainless steel cutlery. Albee Royale's "Festive" place setting with Baccarat's "Filao" stoneware and Michael C. Fina's own "Impero Novo" flatware. (Inset at left) Deruta's hand-painted pottery in the "Raffaello" pattern.

con with the house tour planning committee. Adding light-catching crystal accents is another way to lighten the mood of the tabletop. Because Michael C. Fina is not only a store, but a brand, they commission their own lead crystal chargers and goblets with hand-painted platinum and gold borders that are as intricate as the finest lace.

In addition to accenting conservative china patterns, the transparent charger can double as a serving dish, explained Steven.

One-stop shopping

More than half of the Bay Ridge location is devoted to jewelry and gifts, and much of it is appealingly displayed in cases set into the walls (which minimize the usual, awkward bending-and-gawking that takes place at the average jewelry counter). In addition to cases of engagement rings and wedding bands that are separated by designer, there are cases of gift ideas for men — jewelry for religious occasions, and even 14-karat white gold necklaces with the Brooklyn area code "718" drawn in diamonds.

There are baby gifts and Tia's exquisite bridal jewelry and hairpieces (including tiaras and hairsticks, many fashioned from mother of pearl).

"We spend many weeks out of the year traveling and looking for new things for our customers to see and feel," said Steven. "Our commitment is to provide the best possible product to our customers."

The grand opening of the Michael C. Fina boutique (8211 Fifth Ave. at 82nd Street in Bay Ridge) will be celebrated the week of April 17. For more information, call (718) 748-5100 or visit www.mcfina.com.

MUSIC

Sings for MS

Sunset Park resident Daniel Rodriguez, 40, may be an ex-cop, but this tough cookie has a sweet side.

The former New York City police officer is inciting swoons worldwide with something other than his muscles: his tenor voice. This month, he's lending that voice to raise funds to benefit Multiple Sclerosis research.

Schooled at Juilliard, Rodriguez (pictured at left) has been singing professionally since he was 14 years old. He became a cop in 1994, but maintained his lyrical habits, taking on the role of official national anthem singer for the NYPD. After the Sept. 11 attacks, he was called by former Mayor Rudy Giuliani to sing a prayer for America, and sang at the funerals of more than 150 police officers killed in the line of duty.

Rodriguez retired from the force just last year due to the overwhelming success of his musical career; he's performed on television shows such as "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Oprah," and at the World Series and the opening of the winter Olympics.

But his mission to help people in need didn't subside once he put down his badge. Nearly 60 percent of his performances are now done for charity.

"You do good things and good things happen to you," he told GO Brooklyn. "It's a calling when you realize that you're supposed to be doing this for the rest of your life."

Rodriguez, whose third album ("an inspirational collection of my best work so far") comes out in May, will perform at the "Music to Cure MS" benefit at the St. George Theatre (35 Hyatt St. at Central Avenue) on Staten Island on April 16 at 8 p.m. Actor Tony Lo Bianco will be master of ceremonies. Rodriguez will also sing the national anthem at the MS Walk that morning in Historic Richmond Town.

"Now that I'm somewhat famous, I use that popularity to bring attention to things like Multiple Sclerosis," said Rodriguez. "I've always tried to use my gifts to do good things."

For \$40 and \$75 tickets to the benefit or more information, call (718) 442-2900 or visit the Web site at www.stgeorgetheatre.com. For more information on the MS Walk, visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

— Erin Marie Daly

BOOKS

Brook book

Peter Brook, the British theatrical producer and director has never been shy about discussing his life and work. Brook is known for innovative stagings with the Royal Shakespeare Company in England and the Paris-based International Center of Theater Research, as well as films such as "Lord of the Flies" (1962) and "King Lear" (1971). His theatrical volume "The Empty Space" (1968) has become a classic on drama.

This year, another writer, Brook's longtime friend and associate, Michael Kusow, has written about the legendary director in "Peter Brook: A Biography" (St. Martin's Press).

And theater lovers will have the unique pleasure of seeing the two men together at an April 11 talk at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Brook's long artistic association with BAM began with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1971. Even the location of the talk, the BAM Harvey Theater (originally opened in 1904 as The Majestic, which closed in the 1950s), was remodeled to resemble Brook's Bouffes du Nord theater in Paris and was re-inaugurated in 1987 with Brooks' nine-hour staging of the Sanskrit epic, "The Mahabharata."

Brook's most recent staging at BAM was "The Tragedy of Hamlet" (starring Adrian Lester, left) a truncated, rearranged version of Shakespeare's play that received mixed reviews.

Brook has said, "We are aware that the conductor is not really making the music; it is making him — if he is relaxed, open and attuned, then the invisible will take possession of him. Through him, it will reach us."

The BAMtalk may be a perfect opportunity for aficionados and neophytes alike to open themselves to the ideas of a man who has done so much to shape modern theater.

The BAMtalk begins at 7:30 p.m. at the BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. between Ashtand and Rockwell places in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bam.org.

— Paulanne Simmons

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: BENSONHURST

Columbus Restaurant

6610 18th Ave., at 66th Street, (718) 236-8623, (Cash only) Entrees: \$2.95-\$6.95. This is a real deli restaurant that smells like pickles when you walk in and serves the best thin-sliced turkey club sandwich you ever tasted. The no-frills decor is much improved by having a cheerful, pleasant waitress. Columbus specializes in corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, and offers breakfast and lunch at great, low prices. Open daily.

Dale Bagels

6201 18th Ave., at 62nd Street, (718) 232-0132, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$1-\$9. This 24-hour deli-cafe serves bagels, homemade salads, sandwiches, and a variety of breakfast wraps and specials. Desserts include apple turnovers, rice pudding, cinnamon buns, and croissants with strawberry, cheese, chocolate or blueberry fillings. There are omelets and bacon from the grill, and 6-foot brick-oven heroes such as fried eggplant with fresh mozzarella, arugula, plum tomato, oil and vinegar, or homemade tuna with grilled onions. Open daily.

La Sorrentino 86

1406 86th St., at 14th Avenue, (718) 837-1084 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$17. Vinny Marino's Italian restaurant, open since 2001, serves a variety of interesting pizzas, such as upside-down pizza (cheese on the bottom, sauce on the top) and chicken parmigiana pizza, as well as calzones and hot heroes. Appetizers include baked clams, rice balls, shrimp cocktail, and sweet or spicy baked wings. Or try one of the pasta dishes, such as linguini with red clam sauce or tortellini alfredo. Desserts include tiramisu and marble chocolate. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Not Just Chicken

1687 86th St., at Bay 16th Street, (718) 259-1111 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.99-\$24.99.

"Original Tasty Buckets" contain up to 20 chicken pieces, and family meal deals are available, too. On the side, try the fresh buttermilk biscuits, cheddar-filled jalapeno poppers, steamed spinach and garlic, or sweet potato fries. Entrees also include burgers, wraps, ribs, specialty sandwiches, and stuffed baked potatoes. For dessert, try the fried Twinkie. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Queens Dominican LaTuffa and Oleg Sarumov also have a second location at 6622 Avenue U.

Ortobello

6401 Bay Parkway at 64th Street, (718) 236-9810, www.ortobellorestaurant.com, (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$27.

Having emigrated from Naples more than 30 years ago, this restaurant's owners still serve the kind of Neapolitan cuisine that would make their ancestors proud. Among the pasta, seafood and meat dishes, diners will find a selection of Italian treats such as a baked artichoke "oregana" stuffed with bread crumbs, garlic and seasonings, or the chicken "capriccioso" — a chicken cutlet topped with diced tomatoes, red onions and balsamic vinegar.

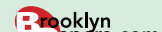
For dessert, owner Andrea Cerasoli recommends the homemade ricotta cheesecake or a selection from his menu of imported sweets. Open daily.

Outback Steakhouse

7177 86th St., at 15th Avenue, (718) 837-7200, www.outback.com, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.99-\$30.99.

It seems ludicrous, but it's true: The Australian-themed steak purveyor opened one of its suburban shopping center-style eateries in Bensonhurst along with a giant parking lot out front. Home of the enormous, deep-fried "bloomin' onion."

For even more reviews, visit



Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, D= Discover's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Villabate offers Sicilian baked goods.

appetizer, the eatery specializes in 12-ounce, center-cut sirloin. There is lighter fare available such as lobster tails and salads, not to mention the children's menu, a.k.a. the "Joey Menu." Open daily.

Tasty Pasta & Pizza

1709 86th St., at Bay 16th Street, (718) 331-7100, (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.99-\$19.99. At Tasty Pasta and Pizza, which opened in May 2001, appetizers include steamed mussels, grilled octopus and cold antipasto (soppressata, fresh mozzarella, olives, roasted peppers, imported provolone, and mushrooms). For an entree, try one of the traditional brick-oven pizzas or hero sandwiches. Or go for the lobster ravioli with pink cream sauce and baby shrimp, or the creamy clam pasta (minced clams sautéed in a medley of chopped onions, garlic, fresh basil, parsley, grated cheese, cream, and a touch of white wine over your choice of pasta). Owners Vincent and Joseph Genaldi also offer party trays. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

Tommaso

1464 86th St., at 14th Avenue, (718) 236-9883 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.50-\$26.95.

This polished Italian restaurant has been serving Bensonhurst for more than 32 years. Owner and chef Tommaso Vecchio offers a mouthwatering menu featuring appetizers such as "frutta di mare caldo" for two (half a lobster, sea scallops, shrimp and clams in garlic sauce) and fresh foie gras sautéed with orange peel and calabrese onions. There is something for everyone on the equally extensive entree menu that features pasta, fish and meat dishes.

Tommaso offers an exhaustive list of wines from Italy, as well as wines from the United States, France, Spain, Australia and elsewhere. A three-course prix-fixe family menu is offered daily; lunch is \$19.95 and dinner is \$24.95. Open daily.

Turkeylicious

7305 13th Ave., at 73rd Street, (718) 259-4422 (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$10.

Turkeylicious offers a hot plate with a choice of turkey, ham or roast beef with a honey-butter croissant. Or try the cream of turkey soup or the delicious Cornish hen. Turkeylicious also serves sandwiches, salads, wraps and Italian-style stuffing (sausage, ham and bread). Smoothies are available in season. Desserts include carrot cake, cheesecake, apple pie, and candied apples. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

Villabate Pasticceria & Bakery

1177 18th Ave., at 71st Street, (718) 331-8430, www.villabate.net, (AmEx, MC, Visa \$20 minimum), Pastries: \$1.75-\$2.

Entering Villabate is like Nirvana for dessert lovers. Villabate is named for owner Emanuele Alaimo's Sicilian hometown, which is famed for its marzipan. The cases are filled with an array of confections (including scrumptious crisp cannoli, of course), as well as incredibly lifelike watermelon and strawberry marzipan, homemade Italian ice cream, and the cake! A seven-layer cake, an enormous version of the popular holiday petit four with striped green, red and white cake layers — covered in chocolate — serves 10 and is a delicious bargain at \$14.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.



Pacifico low

Pacifico restaurant delivers on the ambiance — not flavor

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

Is there a cuter, quirkier, more endearing restaurant than Pacifico in Boerum Hill? Just off Smith Street, set way back from the Pacific Street curb, the eatery lures diners with its gaily-colored lights and askew sign, like a sea nymph beckoning ships.

The first space you enter is a makeshift room with comfortable tables and large metal heaters that radiate warm-to-the-bones heat. Walk further inside, and the restaurant's dining room reminds one of the kind of big, cozy space common in New Mexico —

all golden tones with a candle lit, Western-looking, metal chandelier, a long wooden bar where people hang out talking, and in the center, a hearth with a big, ember-throving fire right out of a Norman Rockwell painting. It's a room that could inspire a writer to sit beside the fireplace and begin the novel they've dreamed of creating.

If only I could end this review here. In this space that promises the heartiest of soul-warming meals, comes the kind of white-bread, vanilla gringo dishes you'd find in a pseudo-Mexican

restaurant in a Midwestern mall.

Am I being too harsh? Not when the best thing I can say about my dinner at Pacifico is, "I liked my pomegranate margarita."

To start, we ordered "hot" salsa and "wimpy" salsa and guacamole with chips. When the waitress placed the little bowls down, she explained that neither salsa was hot, just different mixtures.

Oh. The "hot" salsa, a blend of chilies and tart lime fruits called tomatillos, had some heat but no flavor; the "wimpy," a mix of chilies and chipotle peppers, had neither. Guacamole, desperately in need of

salt and lemon, was helped somewhat by toasted pumpkin seeds.

Straying far from the border, I ordered a roasted beet and grapefruit salad topped with cotija cheese. How tasty it sounded with the sweet, earthy beets and tart grapefruit sections; how lovely to see the ruby vegetables beside the pale pink fruit.

How wrong I was.

The beets were fine, the grapefruit sections, fine, too, but together — nothing. Add the cheese, fried into a hard wedge, and dressing with neither



Appetite for destruction: At Pacifico restaurant in Boerum Hill, choco-holics are invited to tackle the chocolate cake with chocolate mousse and Mexican chocolate sauce (above) with a soup spoon, leaving sticky knuckles. (Above left) The rustic, candlelit restaurant has a vast amount of outdoor seating which is enclosed with large, heated tents in cooler months.

sweetness nor acidity, and sorry folks, but this salad is a lesson in what not to do to innocent produce.

And, sigh, the grilled pork ribs with chipotle glaze. Try finding a better-looking pile of meat. And by pile, I mean enough big, black, glistening ribs to feed a frat party. In fact, the serving sizes of most of Pacifico's dishes are generous to a fault. Large is expected; heaped so high that cutting into a dish sends the contents sprawling is not the way to go. Gnawing on those ribs reminded me of being on laughing gas at the dentist's office. I was aware of the meat's jaw grinding texture and lack of flavor, but their taste barely left an impression.

Up for more? One entree — a Chip Shop meets Chi-Chi's hybrid — featured three limp tacos filled with fried fish and soaked with a ridiculous cabbage salad. The other dish was a nicely fried stack of chicken in a crisp crust drizzled with roasted chile sauce, that did little but dampen the chicken's bat-

ter. Both dishes came with a side of gummy grilled corn on the cob sprinkled with cotija cheese.

Dessert left me despondent. Because I was dining with a chocolate, we ordered the chocolate cake with chocolate mousse and Mexican chocolate sauce. Why would chef Dan Hall offer the chocolate overkill dessert in a big, deep mug with the cupcake shoved down at the bottom, too-sweet mousse on top and chocolate sauce spilling over the side of the cup and onto the plate? After dipping the soup spoon in (a long paraffin spoon would have helped), I had to root around the bottom of the cup to get a bit of cake leaving my hand covered with sauce.

A train wreck.

A fluffy Key lime pie wasn't bad.

I have to ask Jim Mamary, who opened Pacifico in August 2003, if you have a place that is appealing enough to draw a crowd despite the abysmal cooking, imagine how glorious it would be with good food?

Dining champs

Borough President Marty Markowitz on Tuesday announced the second annual Dine In Brooklyn celebration, which will run from April 11 through April 20. Participating restaurants will offer a prix fixe lunch or dinner menu, or both, for \$19.55.

This year's price point is a celebration of the Brooklyn Dodgers' 1955 World Series victory, explained Markowitz.

"It's time to step up to the plate," he said. "As the great Jackie Robinson would have noted — it's a steal."

Among the restaurateurs at Borough Hall on April 5 who offered samples from their menus, was chef Michael Fiore, pictured left, with his duck pastilla roll) and sommelier Robert Amato (right, with Fiore's chocolate mascarpone cheesecake) of Tempo restaurant in Park Slope.

In addition to Tempo, 180 restaurants will participate in this year's

event, including 2-year-old Henry Grattan's, in Bay Ridge, where chef Brian Bradley is offering a pan-seared salmon on a bed of green mashed potatoes subtly flavored with wasabi as one of four entrees on a three-course prix fixe dinner menu; Carroll Gardens icon Marco Polo Ristorante, which is offering a broiled trout and spinach roll among the five entrees on its three-course dinner menu; and the new Dhaka Indian Restaurant, in Brooklyn Heights, which is offering a complete lunch or dinner for two. (This year's price does not include beverages, tax and gratuity.)

For a list of participating restaurants, see page 9; visit www.brooklyn-tourism.org Web site or call (718) 802-3846. For reviews and more information about many of these restaurants, visit GO Brooklyn on the Web at www.brooklynpapers.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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Arnaud's six-pack

Film festival darling Desplechin gets series at BAMcinematek this week

By Kevin Filipski
For The Brooklyn Papers

Although he's only made six feature films since 1991, France's Arnaud Desplechin has become one of the world's most highly acclaimed film directors.

He may not be known to general audiences, but Desplechin's uncompromising, intelligent studies of warts-and-all characters have large festival followings. BAMcinematek's series "In the Company of Arnaud Desplechin," which runs April 13 through April 17, introduces Brooklyn audiences to a director who obviously makes his films to please himself. If viewers want to come along for the ride, that's an added bonus.

Desplechin has made different types of films: a spy thriller, a period drama, even a cinematic essay about the difficulties of filming a play. But his two lengthy, intimate, contemporary character studies are at the heart of his art.

Desplechin's best film, "My Sex Life ... or How I Got into an Argument," opens the series on April 13. Three hours long, this revealing look at several twenty-somethings trying to discover what makes relationships work (even as their lives are continuous demonstrations of infidelity

and romantic failure) is one of the most astonishing "epic" films ever made. The director is fond of long takes, so many scenes play out in what appears to be real time.

To pull this off successfully, a director has to have faith in his performers, and Desplechin has several terrific

CINEMA

"In the Company of Arnaud Desplechin" runs April 13-17 at BAMcinematek, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$10, and on weekdays, \$7 for students with ID, seniors and children 12 and younger. For a complete schedule and more information, call (718) 626-4100 or log on to the Web site at www.bam.org.

young French actors at his disposal. Leading man Mathieu Amalric can wring ever finer gradations of emotion out of his immensely mobile face, and lead actresses Emmanuelle Devos, Jeanne Balibar and Marianne Denicourt are required to give more emotional nakedness than most directors would request.

The result is an exhilarating ride through the all-too-real lives of people who act differently than they talk.

When Desplechin's latest film, "Kings and Queen," premiered last fall at the New York Film Festival, the consensus was that he had made another boldly philosophical treatise on relationships, a drama as equally dazzling as "My Sex Life."

Showing on April 15 (as a



Opening day: "My Sex Life ... or How I Got Into an Argument" will be screened on April 13 as part of BAMcinematek's series of films by French director Arnaud Desplechin. The retrospective continues through April 17.

sneak preview arranged by its distributor, Wellspring, before it is released locally in May), "Kings and Queen" has many of the Desplechin trademarks that made "My Sex Life" so illuminating: the presence of Devos and Amalric, the imposing length (150 minutes), and the relentless analyzing of various lives through imaginative cross-cutting and interplotting.

And yet "Kings and Queen" is only fitfully satisfying. It's actually difficult to pinpoint why, because so

much of what makes Desplechin's work fascinating is present. Perhaps it's because the two stories that Desplechin brings together after such a long buildup don't have the same kind of resonance together as they do apart; perhaps it's because the movie's title, which refers to the main female character and the men (and young son) in her life, seems too obviously ironic in retrospect, with none of the nuance of the title of "My Sex Life."

Whatever the reason,

"Kings and Queen" rarely reaches the ecstatic heights of the earlier film, but it does underscore Desplechin as a chance-taker and bold experimenter, and Desplechin's other films in the BAM series are further cinematic experiments.

The director's second feature, 1992's "The Sentinel" (screening April 17 along with 1991's "The Life of the Dead," the director's 54-minute debut), is a 140-minute espionage mystery that flirts with — but never

succumbs to — the clichés of the genre. Instead it concentrates much of its energies on the psychology of the medical student who finds himself thrust into a bewilderingly complicated situation.

On April 14, Desplechin's only English language film, "Esther Kahn," will be screened, a beautifully detailed journey back to London in the early days of the 20th century to follow a young Jewish girl who wants so badly to become a stage actress.

So much of this ambitious film is so perfectly realized — from Howard Shore's most ingenious musical score to the actual physical details of the production — that it's too bad that "Esther Kahn" remains a halting disappointment. Partly this is due to the fact that, since the director is French, his limited expertise with the English language shows up onscreen. But most damaging is the presence of Summer Phoenix in the title role, the kind of casting miscalculation that buries even the most well-intentioned film.

Lastly, "Playing in the Company of Men" is scheduled for April 16. Continuing Desplechin's relentless experimentation, this 2003 cinematic essay on the twin illusions of theater and film is based on Edward Bond's play. Using British popstar Paul Weller's songs as a sort of audio commentary on the action, "Playing" presents Desplechin at his most avant-garde, and shows that, even at his less than considerable best, this immensely gifted artist is a needed provocateur in today's cinema.

Whitman sampler

Continuing its 50th anniversary season, the Brooklyn Philharmonic is also commemorating the 150th anniversary of the publication of Walt Whitman's seminal "Leaves of Grass."

Combining the two celebrations was left to composer Jennifer Higdon, whose composition "Dooryard Bloom" was commissioned by the Philharmonic.

Based on Whitman's poem "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," Higdon's 24-minute work for baritone and orchestra has its world premiere on Saturday, April 16, on a program that also features three choirs performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

"Brooklyn Philharmonic board member and former music director Robert Spano asked me several years ago to write something for a Whitman celebration and we settled on the 'Lilacs' text," Higdon said by phone from her home in Philadelphia. Whitman's poem is a tribute to Abraham Lincoln written shortly after his assassination in 1865.

"My setting sounds pretty much like an elegy," she said. "I just tried to reflect the text, basically; it has a lot of ambiguity, and I tried to put that in the music. As for the soloist, in my head it sounded very logical to write for a baritone."

Nemon Ford sings the premiere.

The 42-year-old Higdon was born in Brooklyn (at Lefebvre Hospital, she says) but her family soon moved to Atlanta, where she spent most of her childhood. Her professional relationship with Spano, currently head of the Atlanta Symphony, has been a fruitful one.

"Are you kidding? We won a Grammy!" she enthuses, referring to the Telarc CD of her works "City Scope" and "Concerto for Orchestra," which won the Best Engineered Classical Album award in February.

But Spano was unable to conduct this world premiere in Fort Greene.

"It's just scheduling," Higdon lamented. "He wanted to but it didn't work out. But I've heard incredible things about [conductor] Michael Christie and am looking forward to working with him in Brooklyn."



Jennifer Higdon

ward to working with him in Brooklyn."

The Brooklyn Philharmonic will perform its "Brooklyn's Ode to Joy" concert, featuring Higdon and Beethoven, at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on April 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$40, \$55 and \$60. For tickets, visit the Web site at www.brooklynphilharmonic.org or call (718) 636-4100. For more information, call (718) 622-5555.

— Kevin Filipski

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Where to

Sat, April 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Learn about the macabre and the inhabitants in Green-Wood. \$20. 12:30 pm. Meet at main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. Also, program to commemorate George Carlin, artist of American identity portraiture. 1 pm. Historic Chapel. Free. (718) 768-7300.

OUTDOOR TRAINING: Urban Park Rangers hosts a talk on "Orientation." Learn how to use a map and compass. 11 am. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311. Free.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE: Brooklyn Public Library hosts a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights, France Morone, co-author of "Brooklyn: A Journey Through the City of Dreams," leads. \$12. 58 members of Brooklyn Public Library Foundation. 1 pm to 3 pm. Meet in front of 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 220-2465.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a walk around Prospect Park South. \$11. 59 members. 58 seniors and students. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet at south-east corner of Prospect Park South and Third Street. (718) 788-8000.

DOWNTOWN TOUR: Mauricio Llovera leads a tour of historic sites of Ft. Greene and Clinton Hill. \$26. 2 pm to 5 pm. Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The Contract," a work loosely based on "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." \$20, \$40, \$60, \$70. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

CONCERT: Harmon Place Central United Methodist Church hosts a concert featuring the Brooklyn College Conservatory Chorus and Orchestra. \$10. 4 pm. 144 St. Felix St. (212) 362-3171.

BARCUMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Mendelssohn program. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

THEATER: Narrows Community Theater presents "Anything Goes." \$15. \$10 seniors and children. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 97th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 482-3173.

DANCE: Thread Dance Theater presents the second annual "Brooklyn Dance Sampler," a showcase of Brooklyn-based companies, schools and choreographers. \$15. 8 pm. BRIC Studio, 31 Rockwell Place. (718) 633-5678.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: The Wooster Group's "Honor Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

WILLIAMSBURG ART CENTER: presents an adaptation of Shakespeare's drama into Japanese "Noh" theater with "Noh-Opera Macbeth." \$15. 8 pm. 135 Broadway. (718) 486-7372.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Philadelpia dance ensemble. \$30. 8 pm. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

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BRICK THEATER: presents "Tupperware Orly," a feminist play by playwright. \$10. 8 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-3457.

MUSICAL: Ste. Simon and Jude. Learn about their lives under the Israeli occupation and the Jewish hopes for the future. 4 pm to 6:30 pm. 182 Remsen St. (718) 624-5921. Free.

RECEPTION: Williamsburg Art and Historical Center presents opening reception for exhibit "Secret Affinities." No one under 18. 135 Broadway. (718) 486-7372. Free.

READING: Spiral Thought Magazine story a spoken word event. 6 pm to 8 pm. Shakespeare's Sister, 270 Court St. (718) 932-2100. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents the fifth annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival. Today, "Lenny" (1974), \$10. \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under age 12. \$6 members. 7 pm. Film is preceded by live stand-up comedy. 9:30 pm. "Mr. Saturday Night" (1992). 9:30 pm. Film is preceded by live stand-up comedy. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT: hosted by Engine Co. 201. \$30 includes food and beverage. No one under 21 will be permitted entrance. OUPH Home Dame Hall, 40th Street and South Avenue. Call for time. (718) 965-8201.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Stories and Art presents Dutch Stories. \$6. \$3 seniors and students, free for members and children under 12. 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

OTHER: FLEA MARKET: Wednesday. St. John. 10 am to 4 pm. 939 83rd St. (718) 353-7700.

SALE: at PS 154. 10 am to 4 pm. 1625 11th Ave. (718) 499-4173.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 57 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

MEETING: places that women's league presents a discussion on "Images of Women Portrayed in the Movies." 10:30 am. Brooklyn College, room 432. New Ingersoll Hall. (718) 991-2440. Free.

SENIOR MEETING: AARP Ovington Chapter meets. New members age 50 and older welcome. 1 pm. Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults. (718) 693-4000. Free.

AUCTION: at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. \$3. 1 pm. 414 80th St. (718) 445-0020.

DISTINGUISHED WRITER'S SERIES: Kane St. Synagogue hosts a discussion of "The Merchant of Venice," by Shakespeare. Ron Rosenbaum, a New York Observer columnist and editor of "Those Who Forget the Past: The Question of Anti-Semitism," is guest speaker. 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm. 236 Kane St. (718) 755-1501. Free.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Philharmonic and Brooklyn Public Library, present "Music Off the Beaten Path: Leaves of Grass at 150." 1:30 pm at New Utrecht Public Library, 86th Street at Bay 7th Street; 4 pm Central Branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 488-5913. Free.

GARDENING TALK: Grand Army Plaza. \$15. 8 pm. 135 Broadway. (718) 486-7372.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Philadelpia dance ensemble. \$30. 8 pm. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

(718) 338-3799. Free.

LIBRARY TALK: Brooklyn Writers for Brooklyn Readers series presents novelist Kate Christensen. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

GAZA STUDENTS: St. Francis College hosts a talk with students from Gaza. Learn about their lives under the Israeli occupation and the Jewish hopes for the future. 4 pm to 6:30 pm. 182 Remsen St. (718) 624-5921. Free.

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UniverSoul Circus is performing in Prospect Park's Wolman Rink lot through April 24.

MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES: Brooklyn Museum presents No Percussion, a four-man percussion group. Included in admission of \$8. \$4 students and seniors, free to members and children under age 12. 3 pm to 5 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

CONCERT: Regina Opera Company performs show tunes and favorites from opera and operetta. 3 pm. 515 46th St. (718) 338-6014. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents Moments from New Music Series. \$10. \$6 students and seniors, free to members and children under age 12. 3 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 963-3460.

BARCUMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Mendelssohn program. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

THEATER: "Anything Goes." 3 pm. See Sat, April 9.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "House of Lights." 3:30 pm. See Sat, April 9.

MUSICAL: "Baby." 5 pm. See Sat, April 9.

CHILDREN

KIDS MUSIC FEST: New York's children's musicians gather on stage for Park Slope Kids Music Festival. \$12. \$6 kids. 11 am to 1 pm. Southpaw, 123 Fifth Ave. (718) 788-8002.

SPRING FAIR: at Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society. Make gifts for people in prison and for soldiers in Iraq. 11 am to 12:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-9792.

PUPPETWORKS: "Around the World in 80 Days." 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Sat, April 9.

CONCERT: UniverSoul Circus performs. 1 pm, 4 pm and 7:30 pm. See Sat, April 9.

OTHER

LECTURE: Program Temple Beth Ahavah Shalom presents Rabbi Bruce Cohen, founder of Interefa Press. 10:15 am. 1515 46th St. (718) 998-3793. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents fifth annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival. Today, "A Night at the Opera" (1935), \$10. \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under age 12. \$6 members. 2 pm. Also, "My Favorite Year" (1982). 4:30 pm. Film is preceded by live stand-up comedy. Also, panel discussion on Jewish humor. 7:45 pm. Friday, "Keeping the Faith" (2002). 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

READING: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Galway Kinnell. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

AUCTION: Bay Ridge Jewish Center hosts its annual event. \$15 includes refreshments and dancing. 3 pm to 6 pm. Fourth Avenue and 81st Street. (718) 836-3103.

WEDDING TIPS: Lion in the Sun Invitation Studio hosts a talk on newest trends and ideas in bridal invitations, flowers and fashion. 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. 463 Fourth St. (718) 369-7776. Free.

ALUMNI DAY: Brooklyn College marks its 75th anniversary with a panel of distinguished scholars. Call for info. 2000 Bedford Ave. (718) 951-5882. April 9.

MON, APRIL 11

FILM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents "Route 181: Remnants of a Journey," a film on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. \$6. 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 230-2100.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" Today, "Heartsburn" (1986), \$10. \$7 students. \$6 members. 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

READING: Renee Steinke, author of "Holy Saints" and Minna Proctor, author of "The You Hear What I Hear?" read from their work. Book Court, 106 Court St. Call for time. (718) 875-3677. Free.

PARENTING 101: Lutheran Medical Center and Health Plus offer a talk on how to care for young children. 6 pm, 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm. See Sat, April 9.

SHORT FILMS: Act Now Foundation presents "The Description." Other movies. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 414-5144. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Reading with Stanley Bennett Clay, author of "In Search of Pretty Young Black Men." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

CONCERT: InterSchool Orchestra of NY (ISO) perform with the Central Park Brass. \$10. 7:30 pm. Bargemusic, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 414-5144. Free.

MEETING: Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association presents Teresa Toro of the Tri-State Transportation

Campaign in a talk about truck traffic. 7:30 pm. 106 First Place. (718) 858-4699. Free.

BAM TALK: Brooklyn Academy of Music hosts Michael Kustow, author of "Peter Brook: A Biography," and theater luminary Brook in a talk. 5:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 631 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

PAINTING: Meeting of Mid-Atlantic Renaissance Society. Norwegian Folk Painting. 7:30 pm. 59th Street. (718) 747-5799. (718) 853-1734. Free.

TUES, APRIL 12

LEAD POISONING: Health Plus offers a talk on how to protect your child. 8:30 am. United Methodist Head Start, 4419 Seventh Ave. (800) 300-8181. Free.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP: Church Avenue Merchants Block Association offers a talk on credit repair and money management. 10 am to 5 pm. 1720 Church Ave. Call to pre-register. (718) 287-2600.

PRESCHOOL SKILLS: Families First hosts a workshop on sensory play activities which should be part of every child's life. \$15. \$10 members. 11 am. 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

TAX COUNSELING: Brooklyn Public Library, Ft. Hamilton branch, offers tax help for the elderly. 1 pm to 5 pm. (718) 748-6919. Free.

MEETING: AARP of Bay Ridge meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 748-9114.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" Today, "Heartsburn" (1986), \$10. \$7 students. \$6 members. 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

WINDOW BOX GARDENING: Brooklyn Green Bridge hosts a workshop on container gardening. 6 pm to 8 pm. Call to register. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220. Free.

MEETING: Community Education Council of District 26, Region 7 hosts a meeting. 7 pm. PS 314, 330 59th St. (718) 758-9821.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Reading and signing with Paula Kamen, author of "All in My Head." 7:30 pm. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

LECTURE: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents Peace Block's organizer Teddy Katz. 7:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 230-2100.

READING: Renee Steinke, author of "Holy Saints" and Minna Proctor, author of "The You Hear What I Hear?" read from their work. Book Court, 106 Court St. Call for time. (718) 875-3677. Free.

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TUES, APRIL 12

LEAD POISONING: Health Plus offers a talk on how to protect your child. 8:30 am. United Methodist Head Start, 4419 Seventh Ave. (800) 300-8181. Free.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP: Church Avenue Merchants Block Association offers a talk on credit repair and money management. 10 am to 5 pm. 1720 Church Ave. Call to pre-register. (718) 287-2600.

PRESCHOOL SKILLS: Families First hosts a workshop on sensory play activities which should be part of every child's life. \$15. \$10 members. 11 am. 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

TAX COUNSELING: Brooklyn Public Library, Ft. Hamilton branch, offers tax help for the elderly. 1 pm to 5 pm. (718) 748-6919. Free.

MEETING: AARP of Bay Ridge meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 748-9114.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" Today, "Heartsburn" (1986), \$10. \$7 students. \$6 members. 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-410

Where to G....

Continued from page 11...

READING SERIES: Barbies hosts Robert Latham, Kyle Smith, Catherine Daly and Tara Wray. 7 p.m. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Company of Annuad Desplechin" film series. Today: "Ethan Kahn" (2000). \$10, \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under 12, \$6 members. 7 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Prokofiev program. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2053.

LITERARY SERIES: National Book Foundation and the Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Eat, Drink and Be Literary: Dinner and a Reading at BAM Cafe." Tonight: author Jhumpa Lahiri discusses her work. Tours are moderate. \$38 includes dinner and wine. 6:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

POETS COFFEEHOUSE: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents Marie Harris, former poet laureate of New Hampshire. Also, poets Wayne Koestenbaum and Cynthia Nelson read from their works. 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents author Elmer Fuchs reading from her book "Making an Exit." 7 p.m. 100 Court St. (718) 264-4996. Free.

JUDASIM 101: Rabbi Traq Kaplowitz leads a discussion of Jewish holidays. Learn how to celebrate Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot. \$10, 7:30 p.m. 250 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 875-9124.

BRICK THEATER: "Tupperware City." 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

ANNIVERSARY EVENT: Our Lady of Angels School celebrates its 80th anniversary with a dinner dance. Bay Ridge Manor. Call for ticket info. (718) 238-5045.

PRE-SCHOOL SKILLS: Families First hosts a workshop on sensory. 7 p.m. See Tue., April 19.

NEW WORKSHOP THEATER: Festival of one-act plays. 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

FRI, APRIL 15

BAMCINEMATEK: Senior Cinema series opens with "North by Northwest" (1959). 10 a.m. Also, "In the Company of Annuad Desplechin" film series presents "Hings and Queen" (2004). \$10, \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under 12, \$6 members. 7 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Prokofiev program. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2053.

DIETEL GALLERY: presents new works by Karl Donath and Susan Nicholson. 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 242 Van Brunt St. (917) 251-4070. Free.

CHAMBER MUSIC: The Brooklyn Chamber Music Society presents a concert. Program features works by Schubert, Liszt, and others. \$30, 8 p.m. First Unitarian Church, Pierpont Street and Monroe Place. (718) 658-0718.

THEATER: "Anything Goes." 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

BRICK THEATER: "Tupperware City." 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

COMEDY: "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

MUSICAL: "Baby." 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

NEW WORKSHOP THEATER: Festival of one-act plays. 8 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

LIFEGUARD SUMMER JOBS: NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is recruiting qualified swimmers to become lifeguards to staff the city's seven beaches and 53 outdoor pools this summer. Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

SAT, APRIL 16

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CROSSING GOWANUS: Brooklyn Public Library Foundation hosts a tour of Carroll Gardens Historic District and then through Gowanus. Highlights of the tour include Monticelli's Veretion Room and a fabulous public garden. \$12, \$8 members. 11 a.m. Meet at corner of Smith and President Streets. (718) 230-2465.

LIVING LOGS: Urban Park Rangers offers a talk about what really lives in a "dead log." 11 a.m. Meet at Audubon Center. 311 Prospect Park. Call 311. Free.

ATLANTIC AVE: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a tour of the Atlantic Avenue. Learn about its landscape and the surrounding neighborhood. Author and historian Frances Morris leads. \$15, \$10 members, \$5 children. 2 p.m. Meet at Monticelli's Veretion Room. (718) 222-4111.

FLOWER GARDENING: Floyd Bennett Gardens Association hosts a talk on annuals. 2 p.m. Ryan Visitor Center. Floyd Bennett Field. (718) 338-3799.

PERFORMANCE

NEW WORKSHOP THEATER: Brooklyn College Theater Department presents a festival of one-act plays directed by the first-year MFA directing candidates. \$5, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Germain Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music concert features a program of Milhaud, Brahms and Stravinsky. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2053.

THEATER: Narrows Community Theater presents "Anything Goes." \$15, \$10 seniors and children. 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 97th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 485-5913.

COMEDY: The Seinfeld Players perform the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." Call for ticket info. 8 p.m. 8201 13th Ave. (718) 907-3422.

MUSICAL: St. Simon and Jude Players presents the musical "Baby," a story about three couples in their 20s, 30s and 40s. \$15, \$12 children under 12 and seniors. 8 p.m. 294 Ave. T. (718) 515-3008.

CHILDREN

CIRCUS: UrbanSoul Circus performs. Call for ticket info. Noon, 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Prospect Park, Wolman Rink.

Lot. (212) 307-7171.

PUPPETWORKS: presents the adventure story "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8, \$7 children. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 South Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 965-5391.

SPECIAL KIDS: Brooklyn Children's Museum offers a workshop for families with children ages 5-10. \$12, \$2 adults. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 130 Avenue C. (718) 735-4000.

IMPACT THEATER: presents "Pollyanna." A spin on the classic tale "The Secret Garden." \$10 adults, \$7 children 12 and younger, free for children age 3 and younger. 3 p.m. 150 Underhill Ave. (718) 763-1348.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: presents "2D/3D." \$6, \$5 seniors and students, \$1 for members and children under age 12. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Also, "Folktales from Asia." 3 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

OTHER

REUNION: Brooklyn Tech High School Alumni Association hosts its 22nd annual homecoming day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 29 Fort Green Place. Call (718) 977-2285.

FUNDRAISER: Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars hosts a silent auction. 5 p.m. 932 Fourth Ave. (718) 333-6699.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Company of Annuad Desplechin" film series. Today: "Playing In the Company of Men" (2003). \$10, \$7 students 25 and under, seniors and children under 12, \$6 members. 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FRIENDS SCHOOL: hosts the sixth annual Bridge Film Festival, an evening of short films submitted by students from Quaker schools around the world. \$15, 6:30 p.m. Pearl Street. (718) 852-1009.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS TALK: Adoptive Parents Committee holds a monthly meeting. 7 p.m. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St. (718) 632-0284. Free.

SUN, APRIL 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EXPLORING T. GREENE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of T. Greene and Clinton Hill. Learn about these Brooklyn neighborhoods through the architecture, communities that surround the property, which runs from Pier 6 at Atlantic Avenue to just past the Manhattan Bridge. That opposition led to the creation of the park idea, one of whose tenets was that housing should not be built on the waterfront.

VERAZZANO DAY: Urban Park Paul Jones Park, Tropic Avenue and Shore Road. Call 311. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Bay Union Tours offers an introduction to the history, architecture and people of Green-Wood Cemetery. \$12, 10 seniors and students. 1 p.m. Meet at 22nd Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 338-1000.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Tour at 22nd Street and Fifth Avenue. \$10, \$5 members. 1 p.m. Meet at 22nd Street. (718) 768-7300.

PERFORMANCE

DANCE: Young Dancers in Resper City hosts a performance. 1:30 p.m. to 5:20, 49th Ave. (718) 967-9620. Free.

DANCE: Brooklyn Museum presents "Flow Vision," an exploration of dance forms, movement and the lives of Jean-Michel Basquiat. \$6, \$4 students and seniors. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

CHORAL FEST: Brooklyn Jewish Choral Festival presents "In a Woman's Voice," music from seven Brooklyn synagogues. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Congregation Beth Elohim, 111 Bedford St. (718) 768-3814.

MUSICAL: "Anything Goes." 3 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

COMEDY: "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." 3 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

MUSICAL: "Baby." 5 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

CHILDREN

PUPPETWORKS: "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8, \$7 children. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

CIRCUS: UrbanSoul Circus performs. 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. See Sat., April 16.

OTHER

FLA MARKET: at Bay Ridge Jewish Center. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 405 81st St. (718) 836-3103.

CELEBRATE SPRING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a class on watercolor painting. \$45, \$49 members. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 100 Washington Ave. (718) 233-2200.

LIU DAY: Learn about the campus in Brooklyn and its faculty, administrators and students. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Corner of Flatbush and Dekalb avenues. (718) 488-0111.

WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a platform on valuing family stories and memories. \$10, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

BROOKLYN AUTHORS: Brooklyn Historical Society presents author Charles Lockwood, author of "Bridges and Brownstones." \$15, \$15, 2 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Company of Annuad Desplechin." Today: "The Secret Garden." \$10, \$7 students 25 and under, seniors and children under 12, \$6 members. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

READING: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, hosts a Russian author series. Patricia Thompson, daughter of Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, is guest speaker. 4 p.m. Also, in celebration of Walt Whitman and 150 years of Leaves of Grass, live performances of music from Whitman's day will be performed. 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 260-2100. Free.

READING: Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a reading. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fall Cafe. 301 1st St. (718) 832-2100. Free.

FLM: "The Producer" (1986). 10:30 p.m. Cafe Steinhilf, 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

BRIDAL ROW: Michael C. Fina celebrates the opening of their store at 8211 78th Ave. In honor of the opening, couples that register or purchase engagement or wedding rings the week of April 17 will receive a complimentary offering discounts at other bridal vendors in the Brooklyn area.

House in 'park' came as surprise to some pols

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Plans to pay for Brooklyn Bridge Park primarily using revenue derived from luxury housing didn't get the nod from the community, elected officials or advisory committees before they were announced, sources said this week.

None of the most recent designs for the 1.3-mile waterfront housing, commercial and open space development, which have been reviewed by the public at sparsely advertised presentations throughout the past few months, was taken for granted that housing is the only solution to the problem of financing the park's yearly maintenance fees of \$15.2 million.

At each of the meetings an additional idea for row houses along Furman Street was also introduced, but so far that is being called a preliminary idea by the park planners. More concrete are four high-rise condominiums with a total of 730 units planned for the Atlantic Avenue and DUMBO-Vinegar Hill ends of the park.

Original plans by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to create a waterfront housing development, introduced in 1986, met with fierce objection from the communities that surround the property, which runs from Pier 6 at Atlantic Avenue to just past the Manhattan Bridge. That opposition led to the creation of the park idea, one of whose tenets was that housing should not be built on the waterfront.

Yet the latest plans presented by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation, called for plan- ning and building the park, dictate luxury housing as the only viable revenue source.

Even if nobody can figure why that is.

Several elected officials say that prior to the housing component's addition in December, they'd heard little to nothing about it as a reality.

"We were not [consulted]," on the idea of pursuing hous-

NEWS ANALYSIS

ing for revenue generation prior to adding it to the plans, said Dan Wiley, a community coordinator for Rep. Nydia Velázquez.

Assemblywoman Joan Millman said she hadn't heard of it, either.

"We believe the Citizen's Advisory Committee was made aware of the various pros and cons of the different revenue-generating options," said Corin Freedman, a spokeswoman for Millman, "but the assemblywoman wasn't informed of the extent of the housing [until December]."

Roy Sloane, a Cobble Hill resident and member of the CAC, said he hadn't heard about housing since it was discussed in 2001, which he said happened at the behest of Community Board 6. Although he opposes the housing now planned for the park, Sloane said he used to advocate for a small, fixed amount of housing in the design.

"It was a very contentious point," said Sloane. "Essentially there was a proposal to build some small amount of housing on the table, but it was never specified what."

Barbara Brookhart, another CAC member, who formerly worked for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition (now Conservancy), said she had heard of housing being brought back into the plan since the Port Authority plan was beaten down by community opposition.

"I never came to the community. Even when there was a Local Development Corporation, it never came to the community," Brookhart said.

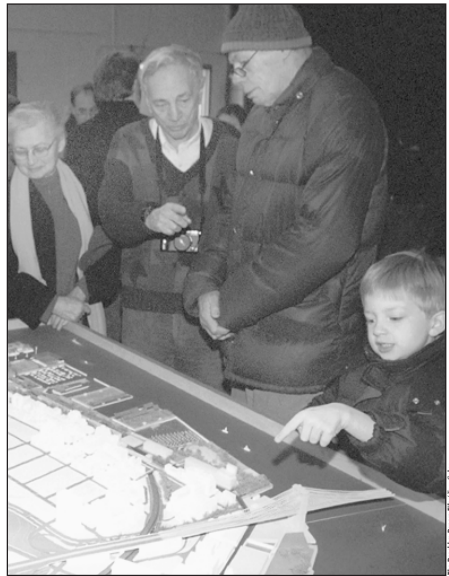
But Hank Gutman, chairman of the 15-member park LDC, a precursor to the BBPDC, said that housing revenue, and it generates recurring and substantial revenue for a smaller footprint," Connor said.

"At that point we were going to go back to the planners to do some things, one was look at construction costs. There was no way they could do some things in the budget," he said, noting that one of those was a two-wall along Furman Street and the Brook-

lyn-Queens Expressway, which has now been omitted.

Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky said he knew housing would be considered as a revenue source as soon as 360 Furman St., a former factory of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, was sold to a developer who plans on converting it into condominiums. He said it was always on the table in discussions for Pier 6.

The 12-story former book and video distribution center for the Jehovah's Witnesses, which sits between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue on



Community members study new plans for Brooklyn Bridge Park, the waterfront development that would stretch from the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue.

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The 12-story former book and video distribution center for the Jehovah's Witnesses, which sits between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue on

the purchases of the piers, was planned last spring by Manhattan-based RAL Development.

When RAL, President Robert Levine began discussing payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) to bolster the park's missing green space, he created a jumping-off point for planners to re-evaluate options for revenue, explained Yassky.

"The first piece was 360 Furman St.," said Yassky. "I think that's the first time housing first surfaced as a revenue

generator.

"Before it was sold I sent a letter to the Jehovah's Witnesses... saying I personally will insist that anybody who turns this into residential help serve the park, so certainly that idea was on the table," added Yassky, who heads the council's waterfront committee.

But Brookhart insisted that in her years with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition, she had never heard about it.

"The housing never came to the community before they put it on there," she said. "Now they've gotten way ahead of the community."

BLOWIN' SMOKE...

Continued from page 1

the ground could. Problem is, they didn't know what to call it.

Paula Zacharakos, a property manager for the building at 601 79th St., said that at least 18 apartments in the 11-unit building have been affected since several weeks ago, when the smoke was first reported. Depending on which way the wind blows, the smoke wafts in through either windows on the west side of the building or on the south side. Many of the tenants, she said, have reported asthma attacks.

"These things are common in a country like, say, Mexico, but not in the city," Zacharakos said of the chimneys, which are mostly manufactured in Mexico. "Some people know exactly what they are, but most people are like, 'What?'"

Zacharakos and others said they would wait to see what develops at a

Committee Board 10 environmental committee meeting, scheduled for April 7, in which officials with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fire Department would reveal their findings.

"It's a new phenomenon in urban settings," said Josephine Beckmann, a spokeswoman for CB10, who said her office has received more than a dozen calls from tenants. "We've contacted the agencies, but we really don't know where it's coming from."

Following the complaints, officials with the city Department of Environmental Protection and the Fire Department descended on the chimneys, sitting near a Jacuzzi in the backyard of a home at 635 79th St., just a few buildings from the apartment complex. While a far cry from toxic waste or a blazing inferno, what they found was nothing short of a conundrum.

Hill, the fire chief, said that inspectors are continuing to "discuss and review" the matter, which he said, could be resolved as soon as next week.

Natalie Miller, a spokeswoman for the DEP, said that the fireplace itself was not illegal, but that the district's inspector posed a safety hazard. But rather than issue violations, Miller said that the emission would be brought up with the owner of the house and the neighbors at the CB10 meeting on April 7. There, she said she hopes the issue can be resolved without further assistance from the DEP.

Neither the Fire Department nor DEP issued any violations to the owner, who could not be reached for comment, but they didn't know what cause of emission was. We didn't know what it was."

"I saw one in the country, but I didn't know what it was," said Beckmann. "People were complaining about the smoke, but they didn't know what cause of emission was. We didn't know what it was."

Called "one of the hottest backyard

adged that most complaints involving outdoor fireplaces have come from upstate New York and Long Island. "The problem at this address is unusual, though, because the smoke climbs up into the apartment building and doesn't have time to defuse into the atmosphere. We're going to do our best to work it out."

While its presence has remained clear in the Midwest and Southwest for more than a decade, the word "chiminea" draws raves in Brooklyn. Beckmann said that after complaints at the CB10 meeting, she headed to the Internet for clues. What she found, she said, was a 12-point list of safety tips more likely intended for chiminea owners in the forests of Pennsylvania than on the city streets of Brooklyn. Those who called into her office said likewise.

"I saw one in the country, but I didn't know what it was," said Beckmann. "People were complaining about the smoke, but they didn't know what cause of emission was. We didn't know what it was."

Called "one of the hottest backyard

accessories ever!" by Chimineas Inc., a Massachusetts-based gardening business, the stoves, say retailers, have touched grass in ways unseen since the lawnowner, Tom Doherty, a sales manager at Chiminea Inc., estimated that the company said close to 30,000 of the fireplaces last year, despite being confined to a 5-year-old Web site and just several storefronts in Massachusetts. At least one in the past year, he said, was sent to Brooklyn, though, being unfamiliar with the word, he was unable to say in what neighborhood.

"It's pretty well broken up all over the country," said Doherty. "One day I found it interesting that it's something that's enjoyed in a country setting," said Beckmann, "but in an urban environment it's become a nuisance."

Ask gardening retailers and you get a similar response, with most saying that they sell two to three of the outdoor fireplaces at the turn of each season to Brooklynites.

"I find it interesting that it's something that's enjoyed in a country setting," said Beckmann, "but in an urban environment it's become a nuisance."

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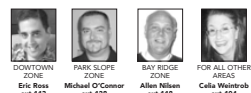
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Public school vendors sought

By Ariella Cohen
For The Brooklyn Papers

Three weeks after denying 550 high-achieving District 15 fifth-graders desired placements in their home-district middle schools, the Department of Education says all district fifth-graders should know which of their second-choice school picks have accepted them by the end of this month.

But while the Education Department promises to accommodate this year's increased demand for middle school admissions by creating between 20 and 70 new seats in each district school and supporting new "gifted and talented" programming in less popular schools, no final plans have emerged to explain how resources will be allocated to these hastily enlarged classrooms and honors programs.

District 15 includes the neighborhoods of Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Red Hook, Park Slope and Sunset Park. "It's better act fast," said Mary-Powell Thomas, president of the district's Community Education Council. "The School for Journalism at the old John Jay has already said they don't have financial resources to expand."

Because of the city's equalized funding policy that determines school budgets by the number of students enrolled, this fall's enlarged classrooms will see a per-student increase in funds, but new curricular or programming plans won't guarantee a bigger school budget.

"I don't know how different the cost of an honors class is compared to a regular class — same room, same teacher, but it's hard to know how something like a talent program will be funded," Thomas said.

So far, the Education Department has taken one preliminary, public step towards training gifted and talented program providers and expanding new accelerated programs citywide. On April 5, the department announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for "Gifted and Talented Professional Development Services."

"The goal of this RFP is to assist teachers, administrators and instructional leaders in developing cohesive and consistent programs that address the needs of gifted and talented students in elementary and middle schools," read a press release announcing the RFP. Mentioned in the request is a need to prepare teachers and administrators for implementation of new programs

scheduled for the next three Septembers.

Before this year, Brooklyn fifth-graders counted on high test scores and a strong academic record to get them into their middle school of choice. Things changed in March when a record number of qualified students applied for entrance at the district's four historically best schools, shutting out 550 of 2,200 students and missing more than a few grade-school parents.

No one imagined that having a glut of stellar fourth-graders would create such problems when about half of all students faced middle school prep tests last year, logging the best scores since the state introduced the test six years ago. City Council members say better communication between parents, schools and the Education Department could have prevented the current game of catch-up.

This situation should have been anticipated and avoided through better planning and communication," said Peter Hatch, chief of staff to Councilman Bill DeBlasio (Park Slope-

News vendors seek repeal of 'furniture' law

Associated Press

A coalition of newsstand vendors called on the city Monday to repeal a 2003 law that would replace their stands with new uniform ones, saying the law would put as many as 60 vendors out of business.

Joined by several City Council members, the vendors said the sleek and expanded stands won't fit on many of the city's narrow streets, which would leave vendors and the vendors without jobs.

Vendors and lawyers from the Newsstand Operators Association testified at a City Council meeting Monday in support of a bill introduced by Queens Councilman Hiram Monserate that would repeal the "street furniture law." Bus stop shelters, new public bathrooms and the newsstands are all considered "street furniture."

Under the ordinance law passed, the city will replace nearly 300 newsstands with uniform stands owned, de-

signed and maintained by a single company. The new stands will display advertisements, which city officials expect to bring in millions in revenue. The bill had the support of all but three council members when it passed.

The newsstand vendors, who now own their stands, would be allowed to continue working on their corners, but they would no longer own the facilities. Monserate, a Democrat, argues that Mayor Bloomberg's administration misled the council when it pushed the ordinance, and he would not have supported it if he knew 60 vendors would be put out of business, as the coalition claims.

The city says only 12 stands will have to be modified and only one will have to relocate. "I don't know why this administration continues to act as if small businesses in this city are some type of pariah," Monserate said.

Carroll Gardens). Along with fellow Brooklyn council members David Vassky (DUMBO-Brooklyn Heights-Park Slope), Sara Gonzalez (Red Hook-Sunset Park) and Letitia James (Fort Greene-Prospect Heights), DeBlasio has been in touch with the Education Department since a March 15 district Community Education Council (CEC) meeting in which parents called for reform of the admissions process and improved lines of communication between district officials and parents.

In addition to their decision to expand capacity at choice schools, the Education Department has responded to borough concerns by reevaluating student applications, creating wait lists and communicating with parents about next steps in the application process. Now, DeBlasio said, "it must be a DOE priority to address the admissions issues that lead other schools to be perceived as less desirable."

District officials say that at JHS 51, the William Alexander Middle School on Fifth Avenue at Fifth Street in Park Slope, 1,300 fifth-graders com-

peted for 300 spots, naming the renowned visual and performance art school as their top choice.

Discussion of the new seats began at the District 15 CEC meeting March 15, immediately following a "Middle School Second Chance Fair." Sponsored by Marcia Lyles, the superintendent of Region 8, which includes District 15, the fair was meant to give parents and students a chance to learn more about district programs still available for enrollment before making a second school wish list. The meeting after the fair attracted about 100 parents — doubling previous attendance records for the public CEC forums — and ended with attendees calling for revision of a "flawed and unfair" admissions process.

"These parents were coming to look at these schools that they knew very little about," said Thomas. "They had never been told that there may not be room for their child at the schools they did know about. We have never had so many parents turn out for one of our meetings."

Schools left with spaces available at the end of the first admission cycle were MS 88, on Seventh Avenue near the Prospect Expressway; the Upper School for Leadership at MS 27 on Huntington Street in Red Hook; and three schools within the old John Jay High School — the Secondary Schools for Law, Journalism and International Studies.

PS 205 fifth-grader Edward Arenas acknowledges that sometimes he does not raise his hand enough in class, yet the A+ science student, who says he is interested in "plants and stuff," still left the mailbox surprised last week when he received notice of his rejection from the Upper Carroll School, on Smith Street near Carroll Street in Carroll Gardens, which he favored for its accelerated science program.

"I don't know how hard I try to remember to talk in class. I think I should have gotten in," Arenas said.

Like Education Department decision makers, Arenas has already begun to muse on hopeful possibilities for his uncertain fall. "I can't remember what my second choice is called," the Prospect Heights resident said, "but I just want to make sure I can learn about plants there."

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With MS, she earns her degree online

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Maureen Fairhurst lives just three miles away from Brooklyn College, but since being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis two years ago even short distances have become a struggle.

Shaken by occasional seizures and painful muscle spasms, Fairhurst, 39, said that besides thrice-weekly trips to her rheumatologist, neurologist and MS specialist, she rarely leaves her apart-

Walk is set for April 16-17

ment on 15th Avenue at 70th Street in Bensonhurst. Even simple chores like preparing meals and house cleaning have been relegated to a home health aid, who cares for Fairhurst seven days a week.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic degenerative disease of the central nervous system that gradually degrades the brain and spinal cord, interfering with nerves and causing

muscular weakness, loss of coordination and speech and visual disturbances. It occurs primarily in young adults like Fairhurst and is thought to be a defect in the immune system that may be of genetic origin.

But one thing the neurological disability hasn't stolen from the former paralegal, is her thirst for knowledge. Last month, she received her diploma in paralegal studies from a

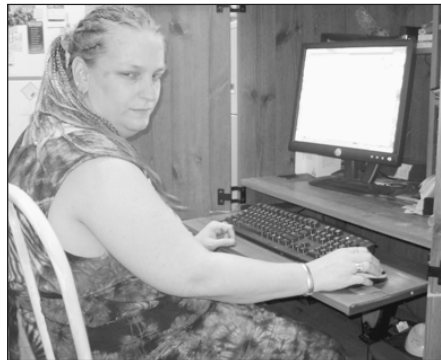
university much closer than Brooklyn College —

Kaplan.edu. The mother of three was one of hundreds to graduate this year from Kaplan University, a school that on paper may be in Florida but for its 22,000 students exists solely on the Web. And while the school currently boasts 154 students from Brooklyn, the experience was especially important for Fairhurst, who said that it allowed more than just an education.

"It got my mind off my illness," said Fairhurst, who said she takes 21 pills each day and injects herself with the drug Rebif three times a day to combat the disease. "I have the highest regard for the school," she said.

The one-year program Pathway to Paralegal, said Fairhurst, allowed her to "attend" hour-long classes, take quizzes and engage in conversations with fellow students all from the comfort of the Dell computer in her living room. In eight classes, including courses that focused on legal ethics and family law, she managed to earn As and Bs and pick up a new interest in criminal law.

"I'd probably want to be an assistant district at-



Maureen Fairhurst, who has multiple sclerosis, earned her college degree with the help of her computer and an online university.

torney," said Fairhurst. "I wouldn't want to defend anyone who I actually knew was guilty. I couldn't do it."

The good marks came despite disruptions stemming from her disease, which forced her to undergo at least four lengthy stays in the hospital.

While the extended breaks would have made catching up

with homework difficult at school, Fairhurst said that professors worked closely with her to make sure she could continue. One professor even gave her his cell phone number.

Students who had be-

Florida. The friends, who rented out a hotel suite in Manhattan, gave her a rare opportunity to see the outside world.

Fairhurst, who lived in Bay Ridge before moving to her current home, was diagnosed in 2003 after several doctors had misdiagnosed her symptoms.

"I was absolutely support them," said Fairhurst.

Scheduled for two days, the walkathon hits Historic Rich-

mond Avenue on Saturday, April 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The following morning, April 17, walkers will descend on the South Street Seaport in Manhattan, at 9:30 a.m.

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HYNES...

Continued from page 1 this year. "What this means is 33 percent of these cases can be overturned on appeal. This is a crisis. Those suits are going to walk free. They've got to straighten this up."

The complaint alleges that at least 33 of Hynes' ADAs currently live outside of the five boroughs of New York City — in upstate New York, Long Island, New Jersey and even Connecticut. Some travel from as far as 30 miles away.

From towns such as Scarsdale, Baldwin, Oceanside and Sleepy Hollow, O'Hara obtained the residency records from the Campaign Finance Board filings of the prosecutors, who all contributed to Hynes' re-election campaign.

Although the Manhattan District Attorney's office was exempted from the rule by the state Legislature in 1962, state law requires that prosecutors in offices in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx must reside within the five boroughs. One exception involves the chief assistant district attorney, who, like the DA, is required to live in the county in which he or she serves.

Hynes' chief ADA, Amy Feinstein, lives in Manhattan. Feinstein lashed out at O'Hara this week, saying that his complaint was unwarranted.

"Federal Judge John Gleeson described [it] as a 'sham' address," Feinstein said, referring to the case against O'Hara. "To quote that with all allowing experienced, highly competent assistant district attorneys to live outside of the city of New York is absurd to say the least."

In November, the state Court of Appeals stated in a decision involving an administrator with the Department of General Services that municipal employees who left the city would have to forfeit their jobs.

Among the ADAs listed by O'Hara, is the man who prosecuted him for Hynes, John O'Mara, who lives in Montclair, N.J., according to campaign finance records. "We don't deny that," said Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer. "Under the law the way it's written, it can't be excluded. Manhattan is excluded from it and we believe we're exempted there, too."

Schmetterer stressed that prosecutors throughout the city — and not just in Brooklyn — were residing outside of their respective boroughs. He also

said that they usually moved from the borough after being employed for several years at the DA's office.

A similar percentage of prosecutors in Queens DA Richard Brown's office live outside the city, according to a Daily News editorial, while Bronx DA Robert Johnson and Staten Island DA Robert Donovan require all their prosecutors to live within the five boroughs.

"If there had been a timely objection, he would have been removed," said O'Hara of his prosecution by O'Mara, who has lived in New Jersey since 1985. "I found out about it now, so it's too late. There's nothing I can do. In that way, he got away with it."

O'Hara, 44, was indicted on seven felony counts in October 1996 for registering to vote and voting from a temporary address four years earlier. Hynes con-

tended that O'Hara registered to vote from an address on 47th Street in Sunset Park while he maintained a permanent residence on 61st Street.

He was the first person to be so tried since suffragist Susan B. Anthony in 1876. The former lawyer was convicted in 1997 but that decision was tossed out on appeal. Hynes tried him again in 1998 only to see it end in a hung jury. The following year, the conviction stuck.

He was sentenced to 1,500 hours of community service picking up trash in Shore Road Park in Bay Ridge and is still serving that sentence.

Hynes has long contended that Hynes was behind the push to have his case tried as many times as it was, and to have criminal charges brought against him in the first place. The rivalry, he said, stems from Democratic primary bids for City Council and the Assembly, including one shot-lived challenge to Hynes by Assemblyman James Brennan.

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